

King, Queen visit embassy in Washington

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor visited the Jordanian Embassy in Washington where the King met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Pickering. Bilateral relations as well as developments in the Middle East peace process and other regional issues were discussed. The King, who was received at the embassy by Jordan's envoy to Washington Marwan Muasher and embassy officials, reassured them about his health.

Saudis, Yemenis meet over joint border

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia and Yemen held talks Monday evening in Jeddah on demarcating their border following clashes last month on the disputed island of Al Duwayyima in the Red Sea. The meeting of the Saudi-Yemeni committee on border demarcation was the first since the July 19 clash and the 11th since it was set up in 1995. After the clash in which three Yemeni soldiers were killed, the two countries signed an agreement to avoid recourse to force to resolve the dispute. The land border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen has never been properly drawn and their maritime border still has to be settled. The two countries agree in 1995 to renew an accord dating from 1934 under which Yemen ceded to its neighbour the provinces of Assir, Najran and Jizan.

Lebanon to send official to Baghdad

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon has decided to appoint an official at its closed embassy in Baghdad and is calling on Iraq to do the same in Beirut, Iraqi ambassador in Jordan Nouri Ismail said Tuesday. "Lebanon wants to name a civil servant at its embassy in Baghdad, which is currently closed, to handle consular and commercial services," Ismail told reporters after talks here with Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz. Ismail said Bweiz "wanted the [Iraqi] government to reciprocate by appointing a civil servant to reopen the Iraqi embassy in Beirut." Lebanon broke off diplomatic relations with Iraq after the 1994 assassination of an Iraqi opposition figure in Beirut in which Iraqi diplomats were implicated.

Arab League pledges support for anti-terror forum

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League condemned Tuesday the bomb attacks on the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and pledged its support for an international anti-terrorism conference. The 22-member league expressed its condolences to the families of the victims of Friday's bomb blasts and to the governments of Kenya, Tanzania and the United States. In a statement, it also expressed its support for an international conference "to fight this dangerous phenomenon," recalling a meeting of Arab ministers in March urging regional and international cooperation on terror. The death toll in the bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi has risen to 211, while 10 people died in Dar Es Salaam.

Iraq develops checkpoint facilities at Iran border

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will open a redeveloped checkpoint complex on the border with former foe Iran later this month, the Iraqi press reported on Tuesday. The enlargement of the Muthurriya complex is being seen as a sign of the growing thaw in relations between the two countries, who fought a bitter eight-year war in the 1980s. The complex will be opened by Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan on August 20, according to the reports. "The Iraqi authorities adopted measures to help allow 3,000 Iranian visitors per week to the holy places in Iraq," the weekly Al Ittihad said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

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King dismisses speculations over succession as 'nonsensical'

'Succession rests in the hands of my brother whom I have chosen over others many years ago'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday dismissed speculation concerning succession to the Throne as "nonsensical."

"As far as the succession is concerned, it rests in the hands of my brother (His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan), whom I have chosen over others many years ago, and who has shouldered his responsibilities and performed his duties fully," King Hussein said in a telephone interview with Randa Habib, the Amman-based correspondent for Radio Monte Carlo and Agence France Presse.

"All this talk, in fact is out of line, coming it seems from many out there whose objective has always been

to attack us in some form or another, and to make us appear weaker," King Hussein said in the interview on the 46th anniversary of his accession to the Throne.

The international press and Arabic press based reports and analyses speculating on the future of the Jordanian Throne.

Time and Newsweek magazine as well as leading newspapers in Britain and the U.S. in addition to dailies in the Arab World and abroad have all written articles that speculated on the future of Jordan after King Hussein and claimed that there was competition in the Royal family over succession.

An article in Newsweek

by Edward Said in which he made accusations against the Kingdom especially angered Jordanians.

In the interview with Radio Monte Carlo the King said that all he wished for is that the "Hashemite family continue to serve and build and to be a significant factor in uniting the people."

"All the issues that may be surrounded by speculation or anxiety will have the right answers in the right time," the King said.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is accompanying the King during his stay at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, on Monday told CNN in an interview that media speculation about succession was sensationalist and pre-

ture. She said the King "could be with us for decades to come."

"He sees this (his illness) as another struggle of the many struggles that he has had to face in his life and one that he is determined to overcome and vanquish," the Queen said.

In the interview with AFP the King said his health was far better than when he was admitted to hospital on July 14. The King starts a new round of chemotherapy to treat a lymphoma today.

In the wide ranging interview the King said he was disturbed by the stumbling Middle East peace process. "The issue at hand is far bigger and its dangers are real. Those who speak in a



His Majesty King Hussein hugging His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in 1995 (File photo by Youssef 'Allan')

language of war do not realise the meaning of war," he said.

But he added: "This does not mean the answer is in our hands, the answer is in the hands of Israel and its government." He warned that "we might

face uncomfortable developments not only affecting us, but rather all others in the region."

Asked to comment on the recent developments in the Kingdom associated with the water crisis, the King said that he "was deeply

disturbed by attempts at covering up the defects which should be exposed."

"We should act with full transparency so that we can correct our mistakes," the King said.

(Continued on page 7)

Anani says Jordan, Iran agree on Jerusalem, differ on peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Foreign Minister Jawad Anani Tuesday returned home after a three-day official visit to Iran during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Iranian President Mohammad Khatami dealing with bilateral relations, regional and international issues of common concern.

In a statement made to Jordan News Agency, Petra Anani said he held talks with ministers of foreign affairs, economy, finance and industry, as well as speaker of the Shoura Council on means of enhancing bilateral relations in all fields.

Speaking to Jordan Television after his arrival, Anani said Jordan and Iran share the same views on the issue of Jerusalem.

The two countries consider the Israeli measures to Judaize the Arab city of Jerusalem, and the practices against the Arab population in the Holy Arab City to be totally unacceptable and illegal, adding that they should not affect the final status negotiations on Jerusalem.

Regarding the peace process, however, Anani said the two sides have different views. "I explained Jordan's position on the Middle East peace process and its importance, in addition to the circumstances which the brothers in Iran should be made aware of," he added.

On the significance of his visit to Tehran, Anani said his visit comes in the heel of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Tehran December last year.

The Crown Prince's visit to Tehran has paved the ground for improving the relations

between the two countries, which have remained unstable since the end of the 1970s, Anani noted.

He added that he discussed with Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi means of overcoming the obstacles facing the development of Jordanian-Iranian relations, and that both countries have demonstrated a genuine desire to develop these ties. Anani said he extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart to visit Jordan, voicing hope that the visit will materialise. Anani also discussed with his Iranian counterpart Iranian-Arab differences, particularly between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the three disputed islands, and explained the Arab position, which calls for discussing the matter at the International Court of Justice.

Anani said the Iranian side is willing to develop its relations with its Arab neighbours and settle all pending differences with them.

On his way back home, Anani made a short stop-over in Manama, Bahrain, where he met with Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, the Bahraini Crown Prince, and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa as well as the Bahraini foreign minister. He conveyed to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

Anani reviewed with senior Bahraini officials the current Arab situation, the Middle East peace process and briefed them on the outcome of his talks in Tehran.

He also agreed with senior Bahraini officials to convene a meeting of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Bahraini Committee in November.

Annan's envoy off to Baghdad Thursday to try to resolve crisis

BAGHDAD (R) — The United Nations special envoy to Iraq will return to Baghdad on Thursday to try to resolve a standoff between the Iraqi government and U.N. weapons inspectors, a U.N. official said on Tuesday.

Prakash Shah, special envoy of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in Iraq is expected to meet with Iraqi officials to discuss an Iraqi decision to halt cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of Iraq's disarmament.

"The special envoy, Prakash Shah, is returning back to Iraq on Thursday," the unidentified official said.

Annan said on Monday that Shah would go back to Iraq "with a very firm message urging the Iraqis to change their position." The 58-year-old Indian diplomat was appointed by Annan in March to supervise an agreement the U.N. chief clinched with Iraq following a crisis over inspection of so-called Iraqi presidential sites.

Last week Iraq announced that it was suspending cooperation with UNSCOM unless it was radically restructured, a move the Security Council called "totally unacceptable."

UNSCOM halted arms inspections of new sites in Iraq on Sunday, but U.N. experts will continue to monitor sites already identified by inspectors looking for evidence of prohibited weapons.

The current standoff began when talks between UNSCOM's chairman Richard Butler and Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz broke down last week. Butler refused to comply with a demand by Aziz to declare that all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction had been accounted for.

This would open the way for the Security Council to lead tough sanctions on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But Butler said he still lacked the evidence to say Iraq had fully complied with U.N. Gulf war resolutions calling for the scrapping of its nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic missile systems.

Butler said on Sunday that Iraq was concerned about what U.N. arms teams might find during their inspections.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry on Tuesday accused Butler of pursuing a hostile American policy against Iraq and spying for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"He is committing the most dirty terrorist acts when he is implementing a conspiracy being hatched by America which is responsible for a genocide against the Iraqi people," the spokesman said.

"He has proved his connection with the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. State Department," he added.



Iraqis browse through domestic goods that people are trying to sell to raise funds for basics such as food and medicine Tuesday in Baghdad. Markets like these have sprung up in most open spaces on pavements in the capital (AP photo)

Almost 2,000 Palestinian workers arrested for entering Israel illegally

BEERSHEVA (AFP) — Israeli police rounded up close to 2,000 Palestinian labourers Tuesday morning for entering the country illegally near the southern city of Beersheva, a police spokesman said.

In a routine operation, the police set up roadblocks near the border with the West Bank northeast of the desert city in

the early morning hours to catch Palestinians on their way to work without permits, he added.

"After three hours, we had to stop the operation since we had no more space to hold the almost 2,000 Palestinians," Amnon Perez, a police spokesman for the southern district, told AFP.

All except two of the Palestinians were released after a few hours and brought back to the West Bank, he said.

The two Palestinians remained in jail since an Israeli court had ordered them in the past never to enter Israel, Perez added.

Around 50,000 Palestinians work legally in Israel and a similar number on the black market while another 15,000 work for Israeli employers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli security has been on alert since July 19 when Israeli police said they prevented a "serious attack" when they uncovered what they said was a booby-trapped car in the shopping heart of West Jerusalem.

Prosecutor appointed to investigate death of Palestinian prisoner

JERICHO (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority has appointed a prosecutor to investigate the death of a Palestinian inmate who human rights groups allege was beaten to death by his guards, officials said Tuesday.

Mohammad Al Dastawi, state prosecutor in the West Bank, said that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had ordered him to carry out a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death on Sunday of Walid Mahmud Al Qawasmeh.

"I have ordered an investigation to see if there was any dereliction in the earlier investigation of the death and the results will be made public in the next few days," Dastawi said.

"The enquiry will investigate the cause and any suspicious circumstances surrounding this death. No effort will be spared to find the truth and to see justice done," he said.

Qawasmeh, a 45-year-old insurance salesman from Hebron, died while being taken from Jericho jail to a West Bank hospital. He had been imprisoned in July on suspicion of financial crimes linked to the insurance office he managed in Bethlehem.

Security officials initially said that a preliminary examination carried out by a prison doctor indicated that Qawasmeh died of heat exhaustion due to the 40-degree-Centigrade-plus temperatures that hit Jericho over the weekend.

But the independent Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group said on Monday that witnesses to Qawasmeh's subsequent autopsy had seen evidence of a beating to the head and contended that the prisoner had died of a brain haemorrhage.

Police said a cut on the prisoner's head was not deep and was caused two weeks earlier in a fall.

Fateh Internet site sparks protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Internet site run by the Fateh party sparked fresh Israeli charges this week that the Palestinian leadership has not honestly renounced calls for Israel's destruction.

The document, presented as a Fateh constitution dating back some 30 years, contains calls for armed revolution and the "eradication of Zionist economic, political, military and cultural existence."

It also opposes "any political solution offered as an alternative to demolishing the Zionist occupation of Palestine."

David Bar Ilan, the media advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said the posting of the document on the official site of Arafat's faction of the PLO was "outrageous." And he said it justified Israel's demand that as a precondition for continuation of the peace process, the PLO renew a 1996 decision to can-

cel clauses in the PLO Charter calling for destruction of the Jewish state.

"This [Fateh] call for the destruction of Israel is no different to the charter of the PLO which has still not been abrogated," Bar Ilan said on Israel Radio.

"It contains a refusal to prepare for peace which can still be found in the Palestinian Authority schoolbooks and Palestinian holiday camps," Bar Ilan said.

The Internet address is <http://www.fateh.org>.

The organiser of the Internet site, Fateh central council member Sakher Habash, confirmed that the constitution remains the official position of Fateh even though a big majority of the movement's members support the Oslo peace accords recognising Israel's right to exist.

He was also completely unrepentant.

"We [Fateh] are a political party and not a government. The Palestinian government may have come to an agreement with Israel but we have not," he said.

"They [the Israelis] have their Likud party and their Gush Emunim [a right-wing religious settler movement] which have their own constitutions and we in Fateh have ours," Habash told AFP.

But other senior Fateh members were more cautious.

"This is old news," said Nabil Amr, Fateh member and minister for parliamentary affairs in the new Palestinian cabinet, insisting the Fateh constitution had been superseded by the Oslo peace accords and subsequent decisions by higher Palestinian bodies.

"Whatever the constitution says we in Fateh remain completely committed to the peace accords with Israel," he said.

U.S. embassy bombers acted in 'self-defence' — Yassin

GAZA CITY (AP) — The spiritual leader of the Islamist movement Hamas said Tuesday he does not know who was behind the bombing of two U.S. embassies in east Africa, but that whoever was responsible acted in "self-defence."

"America has placed itself by the side of Israel against the Arab and Muslim World," Sheikh Ahmad Yassin told the Associated Press in an interview. "So it should be no surprise when people seek revenge against this unjust American policy."

Asked about the bombings, the 62-year-old sheikh said: "I consider what happened self-defence by someone who was seeking revenge for the injustice of American policy and the destruction it has brought on their country."

Israeli and U.S. officials have said they were looking into possible involvement by alleged Islamist and Saudi financier Osama Ben Laden.

Yassin said Hamas knew nothing of the bombers' identity. "We have no information if Ben Laden stands or does not stand behind these bombings," he said.

"We have nothing to do with Osama. He is not in our country," the sheikh scoffed at U.S. investigators, saying "American intelligence is deluded — they do not know who their enemy is."

However, he explicitly denied any Hamas involvement in the attacks.

"We are not willing to open fire on America," he said. "Our battle is on the land of Palestine and we will not take it outside, because it does not serve our cause or our people."

Netherlands shelters Islamist network — report

THE HAGUE (AFP) — A core group of 300 to 400 Islamists lives in the Netherlands whence they provide financial and logistical support for terrorist acts elsewhere, the Telegraaf newspaper claimed on Tuesday.

Among those sheltering in the Netherlands are suspected leaders of the Egyptian Islamist group Gamaa Islamiya, which was responsible for murdering 54 people, mostly tourists, during a bloody attack in Luxor in

southern Egypt in November last year, the popular daily claimed.

The Telegraaf said the information was contained in a "detailed inventory" compiled by the Dutch Internal Security Service (BVD).

Quoting Middle Eastern sources, the newspaper said many suspected Islamists from Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Lebanon and Algeria lived in Amsterdam and Eindhoven in south-eastern Netherlands under cover of political

asylum.

The BVD on Tuesday confirmed that it suspected that a network of Islamists, including veterans from the Afghanistan war, operated in the Netherlands.

The organisation declined to give further details on their investigations and a BVD spokesman refused to link any such network to the attacks on the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in the Saudi-born millionaire



CYPRUS FIRES DESTROY CAR: British soldiers investigate the scene Tuesday near a burned out car on the British base of Episkopi in Cyprus after it was destroyed by flames on Monday night. Fourteen families, including the British forces commander, lost their homes in a raging brush fire around the base (Reuters photo)

25 rebels killed in Algeria — security

ALGIERS (AFP) — Security forces in western Algeria on Monday wiped out a group of 25 armed Islamists suspected of being responsible for a major civilian massacre, a security service spokesman said.

Army, police and civilians armed by the government "annihilated" the armed group after trapping them on Forno mountain, at the town of Bouihi in the Tlemcen region.

The group carried out the July 25 massacre in Tlemcen where 12 villagers at Ouled Khalil had their throats slit and were mutilated, the spokesman said.

A previous report put the toll at 20.

After the operation security forces seized 20 machine pistols, a Bren gun, a shotgun and an automatic pistol, the same source said, adding that government troops were continuing to hunt down members of the group.

It was the biggest success for government troops since last month's killing of the GIA's leader Hocine Fliche, and 10 of his men, at

Bouzaoua outside of Algiers.

A six-member United Nations delegation visited the site of the atrocity at Ouled Khalil as part of a 12-day fact-finding mission which finished last week.

The latest assault brought the number of armed Islamists reported to have been killed in western Algeria in the last few days to 50.

Security forces killed 25 armed Islamists in the west of the country, where a number of massacres left more than 50 dead in recent weeks, local press reported Monday.

Nineteen armed Islamists died during an army operation still under way in the areas of Taret and Saïda, where village massacres July 26 and August 2 left around 30 dead, the dailies L'Authentique and Le Quotidien d'Oran said.

L'Authentique attributed the massacres to the Al Ahouel wing of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

The other six Islamists were killed Saturday in Medet, in the south, La Nouvelle République reported.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel arrests PNA policeman, 11 others

DAHARIYA (AFP) — Israeli police rounded up 12 West Bank Palestinians Tuesday, including a policeman, in a sweep against car thieves, a police spokesman said. Some 300 policemen and border guards participated in the early morning raids on three villages around Dahariya, an area near the southern tip of the West Bank considered a centre for rings which steal cars in Israel, said police spokesman Ofer Sivan. Those detained included a Palestinian policeman who is an officer with the Palestinian-Israeli liaison unit in Dahariya. Atef Wareidet, he said.

Iranians protest at Pakistani embassy

TEHRAN (AFP) — The family of an Iranian journalist feared kidnapped by the Taliban militia in Afghanistan gathered outside the Pakistani embassy here Tuesday to demand Islamabad's intervention to secure his release. Mahmoud Soremi, a correspondent with the official IRNA news agency, is believed to have been captured along with 10 diplomats in a raid by the Taliban militia on Saturday against the Iranian mission in Mazar-i-Sharif, once a key opposition stronghold in northern Afghanistan. Iran says the 11 have been transferred to the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, but the militia denies holding them. The rally in Tehran is the first of a series planned to be held in front of the Pakistani mission here in protest over Islamabad's support for the Taliban.

PKK release Turkish mayor

ANKARA (AFP) — Kurdish separatists have released the mayor of Bahcesaray, in Turkey's eastern Van region, whom they kidnapped last week, the mayor's office said Tuesday. Naci Orhan was freed by his captors in the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) late Monday in the Gupurjan region of Van province, a town hall official told AFP by telephone. Orhan was taken to local police headquarters in Van after his release. "We are told the mayor is in good health," the official said.

Qadhafi human rights prize goes to Castro

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya designated Cuban President Fidel Castro the 1998 winner of the "Muammar Qadhafi Human Rights Prize," with an award ceremony planned for later this month, the official JANA news agency reported Tuesday. The agency gave no details of whether Castro would come to Tripoli to receive the award, which includes a cash prize of \$250,000 and is to be handed down August 30, JANA said the award, established in 1989, recognises Castro's "resistance to imperialism, his struggle in the name of principles, and his courage to confront reality, all of which augur a new step forward in the people's struggle against hegemony, embargo and aggression." According to the news agency, the award ceremony will "group worldwide leaders concerned with human rights."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Mr. Bogus Show
15:30 Children's Programme
— Halfway to Cross the Galaxy and Turn Left
16:00 The Album Show
17:00 Doc. — Ushuaia
18:15 Acapulco Bay
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — EsMe
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Comedy — Buddies
20:00 Doc. — Envoy Special Magazine
20:30 Faces and Places
21:10 Kung Fu
22:30 News in English
22:30 Chicago Hope
00:10 End of T.N.

PRAYER TIMES

04:27 Fajr
05:53 Sunrise/Duha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:20 Asr
19:29 Maghreb
21:54 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefieh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.
4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4622766
Anglican Church Tel.
4624553/4624811.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Aftem Syrian Orthodox Church

Tel. 771751.
Anoman International Church
Tel. 865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5658404

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
4646138

Church of Presentation, Swe-
fieh Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church
Tel. 4624757

The English-Language
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel.
892679

The Baptist Church Tel.
4628052

The Armenian Catholic
Church Tel. 771331

The Armenian Orthodox
Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the
Department of Meteorology
Temperatures are expected to
dip slightly becoming around
average with normal summer
conditions prevailing, and
winds northwesterly moderate
to active. In Aqaba, it will be

hot, winds northerly moderate
to active, and seas calm. In
Aqaba, it will be hot, winds
northerly moderate, and seas
calm.

Amman 21/32

Aqaba 27/40

Deserts 22/36

Jordan Valley 28/40

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 41

Humidity readings: Amman
41 per cent, Aqaba 29 per
cent.

Following are the highest tem-
peratures expected today in
the following areas:

Ajloun 30

Jerash 35

Um Qays 34

Madaba 34

Petra 36

Dead Sea 42

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Abdul Majid Sha'ir 4391405
Dr. Hani Ahmad 4394356
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul 4398120
Dr. Fakher Bilel 5522253
Firas pharmacy 5661912
Al Asema pharmacy 4637055

Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

Yacoub pharmacy 4644945

Shamsan pharmacy 4657660

Naimouk pharmacy 4625872

Najib pharmacy 5347632

IRBID:

Dr. Issam Salih 248658

Al Quds pharmacy 1

ZARQA:

Dr. Zuhour Al Qadi 906606

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Re-
sponse 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 109
Rome Police 112 4621111 4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5905890
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewage Dept. 486467
Amman Municipality Com-
plaints 4787111
Telephone Information (direct-
ory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4773111
Water Authority 5660100
J. Electricity Authority 5315615

Electric Power Co. 4136381

RJ Flight Information 44-
53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53201

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery 5921094

The Islamic Health 5661317

Hussein Medical Centre Tel.
5854859

Luzma 4630195

Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6

Akileh Maternity 4642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity
4642362

Malhas, J. Amman 46361401

Palestine, Shamsan 5607071

Shamsan Hospital 5669131

University Hospital 5353444

Al-Munshir Hospital 5667227/1

Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664163/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3

Al-Bashir 4775111/26

Army, Marka 4891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50

Amul Hospital 5674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital
..... 109083323

Zarqa National Hospital
..... 109900560

Ibn Sina Hospital 109986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital
..... 109990999

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital
..... 102755555

Greek Catholic Hospital

..... 102127275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital
..... 1021247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital
03814111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied

by Royal Jordanian (RJ) infor-

mation department at the

Queen Alia International Air-

port Tel. 44153201 where it

should always be verified.

Information on other flights

is supplied on phone 44

1527001 or 44153250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights

07:00 Damascus (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:45 Larnaca (RJ)

09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:30 Madrid (RJ)

18:05 Istanbul (RJ)

18:05 Paris (RJ)

18:40 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

19:00 Rome (RJ)

19:10 London, Vienna (RJ)

19:25 Frankfurt, Berlin (RJ)

19:30 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)

00:15 Beirut (RJ)

01:05 Cairo (RJ)

01:30 Dhahran (Add) (RJ)

Other Flights

11:00 Sanaa, Hudadah (Y)

11:30 Kuwait (K)

12:30 Jeddah (SV)



CELEBRATING KING'S ACCESSION DAY: A bus driver Tuesday decorates his bus with flowers and His Majesty King Hussein's pictures to celebrate the 46th anniversary of his rule (Reuters photo)

Haddadin's resignation seen as rare example for government officials

By Soleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — The resignation of Water Minister Munther Haddadin after a public outcry over contaminated drinking water was a rare case of an official being held publicly accountable for negligence, analysts said on Tuesday.

Haddadin's resignation on Sunday followed a barrage of public criticism and a hostile press campaign after complaints of smelly, contaminated drinking water.

While many ministers have resigned for personal reasons, analysts say Haddadin's case was a rare one.

"This incident will strengthen public accountability of officials, but it is clear we still have a long way to handle less easily exposed graft and negligence by civil servants," said one former minister who asked not to be named.

Haddadin later admitted tests showed extensive presence of worms and weeds. He said the spread of worms was aggravated by an unusually hot summer which the main treatment plant — handling nearly half the capital's annual water consumption — was unable to cope with.

But most Jordanians held the minister directly

responsible.

A judicial inquiry has been ordered by the government to investigate the contamination.

In a letter to Crown Prince Hassan, King Hussein, undergoing cancer treatment at a U.S. hospital, said officials must act with "utmost transparency" and be held accountable when they neglect their public duty.

"We await the results of the committee to know who was responsible...and to take steps which teach people in their posts of the necessity to do their duty and that there is punishment," the King said.

Haddadin had negotiated a deal for Jordan to be supplied with water from

Israel's Lake Tiberias, which a parliamentary committee pointed to as a possible source of the contamination.

The staunch lobbyist for increasing cooperation with Israel was unable to convince a sceptical public that the contamination was unrelated to the mixing of drinking water with quantities pumped from the lake.

Haddadin's sacking is another damaging blow to a government increasingly under fire for allegations of mismanagement of the economy and a spate of legislation such as a tough press law which have harmed Jordan's international image, analysts say.

'Editor at weekly satirical paper detained'

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The chief editor of Jordan's only satirical weekly, Abed Rabbo, was taken from his home early Monday morning by security forces, his family said Tuesday.

According to Hussein Emoush's wife, the arrest took place at their home in Zarqa, and they were not told either why or where he was being detained.

"Over 10 police officers carrying an arrest and search warrant came to our house at 12:45 a.m.," she said, adding that her husband did not resist the arrest and that the police did not search their house.

Mrs. Emoush complained about the timing of her husband's arrest, suggesting that police could have arrested him from his workplace or summoned him by telephone.

Osama Rameeni, Abed Rabbo's managing editor, described the arrest

of his colleague as "illegal and ill-timed."

He said Emoush could have been detained for articles published in the paper's recent editions.

Abed Rabbo has in its last two editions attacked more than one government official and placed them under fire for what Rameeni called their "latest fiascos," including allegations of mismanagement of the economy, a spate of legislation such as the draft press law, and the water pollution crisis, which according to analysts may have harmed Jordan's international image.

"As a writer in a satirical paper, it is obvious that his writings irritate government officials," Rameeni added.

He said the paper has complained to the Arab Organisation for Human Rights, Parliament's Public Freedoms Committee, the opposition parties' coalition committee and the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to help

ensure the release of Emoush and put an end to such "recurrent measures against journalists."

"Ours is the time of human rights and democracy, and the recurrent late-night house arrests are no longer accepted... They [the authorities] just cannot keep harassing journalists and violating their privacy," he added.

According to his wife, Emoush, a 29-year-old father of two girls, has been detained twice in the past three months.

On June 2, he was charged with lese majeste for an article entitled "Be Damned." According to Rameeni, the charges were dropped after the court found him innocent.

On July 2, he was charged with slandering the government in connection with the same article.

The Jordan Times contacted several government officials, who said they were unaware of Emoush's arrest or the reasons behind it.

Coalition condemns attack on journalist as 'assault' on freedoms

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A coalition of opposition political parties and the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in Jordan on Tuesday condemned a recent attack on the chief editor of Al Mithaq weekly, who has been critical of past and present government policies.

Both said Sunday's attack on Hattar undermined public freedoms and urged authorities to help apprehend the assailants.

In a statement to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the coalition, led by the influential Islamic Action Front party, said the attack did not only harm Hattar but the image of the country and its stability.

"Since the attack is a national matter, we look forward to Your Highness' help and intervention," it added.

The 13-member coalition and over 40 independent human rights activists issued the one-page statement after meeting late on Monday.

Four unidentified assailants attacked Hattar as he was returning to his home in Jabal Hussein on Sunday with his wife and 8-year-old son.

Hattar, a leftist and a vehement critic of many past and present government officials, said he fell unconscious after the men beat him on his head with batons.

He told the Jordan Times he was not able to identify any of the attackers, including a fourth who remained in a taxi

used in the escape.

But Hattar's wife and two eyewitnesses provided police with descriptions of one of the assailants and the name and licence plate number of the taxi.

Police officials said the name of the taxi company and the car's licence plate were forged. They added that they were still looking for the assailants.

"The attack on Hattar is part of a bigger plot aimed at harming Jordan and its existence," it said. "It is also a clear assault on the general safety and public freedoms granted to all citizens by the Constitution."

"We are positive Your Highness will not let this conspiracy pass and that you will intervene personally to help uncover it."

In a statement issued on Monday, Hattar blamed the incident on a former prime minister, the PLO's Fatah movement, a former government minister, and the Israeli embassy in Amman.

"I accuse all these sides together and individually for this cowardly attack, which constitutes a clear message against all my writings and activities," Hattar said.

He said these four parties must have been angered by his recent articles in Al Mithaq attacking them.

Hattar has appeared in court several times in the past years on charges of violating articles of the press law and of lese majeste, of which he was found innocent last November.

Discovery boosts production at natural gas field

AMMAN (J.T.) — The production capacity of a gas well in the Risbeh district close to the Iraqi border has risen from half a million cubic feet per day to more than seven million as a result of horizontal drilling operations, an official from the National Petroleum Company (NPC) said Tuesday.

According to Tahet Taher, chairman of the NPC board of directors, the Kingdom's overall gas production has risen from 27 million cubic feet to 34 million

cubic feet per day as a result of this well's higher output.

This is the first time that the NPC has resorted to horizontal drilling at the gas field, and in view of its success, the NPC management is determined to apply it to other wells in the Risbeh district to extract more gas for the country's growing energy needs, said Taher.

The NPC is planning to develop the Risbeh gas fields in the near future to produce 45 million cubic

feet of gas per day, said Taher, adding that the company's target is to produce 90 million cubic feet daily by the year 2000.

Fayez Suheimat, NPC general manager, said trial production at the Risbeh gas fields began in 1989 following their discovery two years earlier. Since production began, 32 exploratory wells have been drilled.

Subeimat noted that the initial estimates of the field's gas reserves stood at 200 billion cubic feet, but

later estimates put the district's reserves at 10 trillion cubic feet. The NPC has so far extracted 72 billion cubic feet of gas from the field's seven wells, he added.

The gas extracted from the Risbeh fields has been used for electric power generation, covering nearly 13 per cent of the Kingdom's needs.

Jordan depends mainly on oil imported from Iraq to produce electricity, currently at the rate of 4.8 million tonnes a year.

U.S. audiologist discusses means of helping hearing impaired

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A top U.S. educational audiologist recently visited the country to help officials rehabilitate children and adults who have hearing problems, especially within the school system.

Mark Ross, from the University of Connecticut, discussed "effective means" to help introduce and improve audiology.

A national committee, headed by HRH Prince Firas Ben Ra'd, health advisor to His Majesty King Hussein, is drawing up plans to integrate educational audiology in the public sector for those with special needs through community-based rehabilitation (CBR).

This strategic plan includes bearing care services and tackles the issues of regular schools, changing building codes, and introducing hearing screening for all children.

According to an independent programme carried out by clinical audiologist

Manal Hamzah, 28 per cent of children in kindergarten through third grade suffer from language difficulties.

"Twelve per cent of children have hearing loss in one ear causing them academic problems, and 48 per cent of kindergarten children go through middle ear infections causing temporary and fluctuating hearing loss during their school day, putting them at risk academically," Hamzah said.

"Educational audiology basically ensures that children with hearing loss are making appropriate use of their residual hearing in the classroom," Dr. Ross told the Jordan Times.

Children with hearing difficulties can be integrated into a normal classroom environment provided that the student and the teacher receive support services, he added.

Such an effort may seem simple enough but entails working with parents, teachers, class acoustics and amplification, a process that could complicate matters, Ross said.

"The idea of having a

hard of hearing child in a regular classroom is to provide that child with a regular curriculum, but he or she needs to have some additional tutoring," he added.

Ross, hard of hearing for the past 46 years, said his problem became evident when he was 24, which fostered an interest in educational audiology.

In the United States, legislation exists to encourage and demand the support necessary for the integration of children with special needs into the normal educational system, he said.

"I try to teach adults who are hard of hearing to be more assertive, to enable them to understand how they can help themselves and to manipulate their environment to their benefit," Ross said.

Wearing hearing aids in both ears and a vibrating watch which serves as an alarm clock when he needs to wake up in the morning, Ross added: "If my wife is not with me, I can manage on my own as I have a number of devices to help, such as my watch."

Dr. Ross is vice president of the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People in the U.S., which tries to ensure that those who suffer from hearing loss get the necessary services from society.

"Consumers [with special needs] should not rely on the government or the medical profession to identify their needs," he said. "The hard of hearing person has to assert his or her needs to the legislative body to ensure that their needs are being taken care of."

Citing an example of this assertiveness, he said the hearing impaired began lobbying cellular phone manufacturers in the United States to enable them use such equipment.

"Hard of hearing people cannot use a cellular phone, as it causes interference with their hearing aids," said Ross.

Hence, consumer groups in the United States have been putting pressure on the cellular phone manufacturers to develop means of providing access to these phones to people using hearing aids."

what's going on

FILMS

- * "The River Wild" at the American Centre, Abdoun, on Thursday Aug. 13 at 5:00 p.m.
- * Children's film "Bumper Special, Rosie & Jim" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

- * Seminar on women's rights at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday Aug. 13 at 6:00 p.m.

SHABIB FESTIVAL/ZARQA

MAIN THEATRE

- * Display of children's fashions at 6:30 p.m.
- * Poetry recitals at 7:00 p.m.
- * Performance by the Rozana band at 7:20 p.m.
- * Performance by the Nazareth Band for Popular Art at 9:20 p.m.
- * Musical performance by Hussein Al A'dhami at 9:45 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * "Miniatures in Humanities and Environment" by Walid Narsallah at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Uthaina, until Aug. 25 (Tel. 5526932).
- * Photo exhibition on old buildings of Salt entitled "Engravings on the Wings of Time" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 13.

Analysts see year-old NCP developing more critical policies

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The National Constitutional Party's (NCP) recent stands against the government's draft press and elections laws, its negotiations with some opposition parties, and its criticism of the government in the ongoing water crisis have come as a surprise to many.

Born from the merger of nine centrist groups more than a year ago, the party, led by former Minister Abdul Hadi Majali, brother of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, was expected to further the interests of the government in Parliament and in the political arena.

But analysts say a combination of electoral defeats and internal rifts have encouraged a soul-searching process which led the party to a more critical stand towards the government and political statements more in tune with the public pulse.

"The party seems to have changed its mind on a number of issues in the past year," said one analyst. "It has learned from

painful lessons."

The much-touted NCP suffered a heavy blow during the last November general elections: only two of its 11 candidates on the party ticket reached the 80-seat Lower House, although

NEWS ANALYSIS

another five NCP members won as independents.

After a brief honeymoon period following the official registration of the party last May, successive waves of resignations due to personal and political disputes have further weakened the NCP.

But officials strongly deny that the party's stands have undergone any change. They say instead that the party was hastily labelled as its inception before it could even start any political action, and that it was arbitrarily given a false image that never reflected its true nature.

"We are a nationalist, centrist party, but we are not the party of the government," NCP spokesperson Khalid Nasser said.

"Our goal is the people's well-being, and we do not

hesitate to criticise any government if we do not like the way it handles things," he told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

Earlier this week, the NCP joined the chorus of protests against government officials for their mismanagement of the ongoing contaminated water crisis, which came to a head Sunday as Water Minister Munther Haddadin resigned and was immediately replaced by Energy Minister Mohammad Saleh Hourani.

"The party holds responsible [for the five-week water scandal] the executive authority [in the persons of] the minister of health and water and irrigation and all officials and employees involved," an NCP statement said on Sunday.

"The NCP demands that those who are found responsible [for the water problem] in both ministries be immediately dismissed, questioned and punished."

Last month, the NCP started talks with the Democratic Party of the Left (DPL), a vocal critic of the government, for the creation of a

coalition to change the elections law.

The two parties are currently working on a broad alliance, which the DPL said could also include pan-Arabists and Ba'athists, to weaken the one-person, one-vote electoral system by introducing a partial proportional formula reserving 10-20 per cent of parliamentary seats to political parties.

"It is still early to say how many parties will join such a campaign, but we believe changes [to the elections law] are needed to enhance the role of political parties and create a party culture," Nasser said.

According to DPL leader Jamil Nimr, the NCP "now has a stand [on the elections law] similar to ours."

"The last elections dealt a heavy blow [to the NCP], and now they are trying to prevent the same thing from happening again."

The NCP also joined Islamists and leftists against the government's controversial draft press and publications law, which was amended and endorsed by the Lower House earlier this

week.

Nasser proclaimed the NCP's support for the recommendations suggested by the House's National Guidance Committee (NGC), although the plenary did not adopt them in full.

"We are against the draft as it came from the government, and in favour of the changes suggested by the NGC."

"But, unfortunately, we were never consulted [on the press law], and this did not please us," he said.

The NCP also plans a campaign to amend the 1992 Political Parties Law by introducing public funding for Jordan's cash-strapped parties.

With the exception of the influential Islamic Action Front (IAF), the NCP's financial situation could be

considered satisfactory when compared to Jordan's 18 other parties.

But, with annual registration fees ranging from JD5 for its 3,000 ordinary members to JD60 for its higher cadres, the NCP still complains of financial difficulties.

"We estimated that we need at least JD150,000 a year to run the party properly," Nasser told the Jordan Times.

Even though the NCP turns to its supporters for funding from time to time, "that is still not enough," Nasser said.

"Public funding would not only reactivate the role of parties, but also avoid the dangers presented by foreign funding of some parties."

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Jakarta court orders lifting of ban on outlawed party

JAKARTA (AFP) — An Indonesian court has ordered the government to lift a ban on the left-leaning Democratic People's Party (PRD) during the rule of former President Suharto.

The Jakarta State Administrative Court Monday ordered the annulment of the 1997 ministerial decree banning the pro-democracy umbrella organisation, which the government blamed for riots in 1996 and whose leaders are still behind bars.

"The revocation was in fact closer to a bribe to give the government a more democratic image," a statement signed by jailed PRD chairman Budiman Sudjatmiko said Tuesday.

"This was still superficial victory," PRD committee member Ida Nasim told a press conference. "But the decision has yet to address the problem with democracy in Indonesia."

Nasim said so long as the Armed Forces (ABRI) tried to maintain its existing legal right to take part in Indonesian politics, multi-

party democracy could never materialise. "Military force would continue to be used against civilians if ABRI still has political interests," said Wilson, who heads PRD's labour affiliate, adding that ABRI backed the repression of opposition parties to help the government and itself maintain their status quo.

Wilson also said the party would not register itself with the home affairs ministry, as it did not "recognise the legal requirements set by the current regime."

"Substantially the party is legal now as the ban was annulled by the court," said judge council member Arif when the ruling was handed down Monday.

Arif said the court ordered the lifting of the ban on the grounds it was based on the wrong law. PRD claimed to be a political organisation and therefore should be subject to the 1975 law on political parties, and not subject to a mass organisation law used to ban it, he said.

The PRD was blamed by the Suharto government for the July 27, 1996, riots in

Jakarta after the violent forced takeover of the headquarters of another party, the Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI), by rival government-backed PDI faction supporters.

The government outlawed the party the following year and arrested its leaders for allegedly masterminding the riots.

A joint statement issued at the time by the minister of home affairs, the national police, the attorney-general's office, the armed forces headquarters and the state intelligence coordinating body said the PRD had disturbed national stability and order.

PRD activists have been calling for the release of 10 jailed leaders, including Sudjatmiko, who is serving a 1.5-year sentence and who filed the law suit against the ban.

Four PRD activists were recently pardoned by President B.J. Habibie. Lawyer Apang Hertina, from the Legal Aid Institute, said the decision to release the leaders law with the justice ministry was charged with subversion.



King penguins at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo gather together to cool down beside a large block of ice. The temperature in Tokyo soared to over 30 degrees Celsius and the zoo decided to place ice blocks in the penguin and polar bear enclosures (AFP photo)

Angolan government alleges new massacre of civilians

LUANDA (IR) — Angolan state media alleged Tuesday that UNITA forces massacred 150 people in a weekend attack on the town of Kunda-dya-Base in Malanje Province.

"UNITA military forces, with no pity, murdered 150 people last weekend in the town of Kunda-dya-Base," the state-controlled Jornal de Angola reported Tuesday.

"According to the provincial vice governor for defence, Joaqui heavily-armed UNITA fighters," the newspaper said.

The report could not be independently confirmed. It comes against a background of hostile government propaganda against UNITA, the opposition movement which fought the government for 20 years until a 1994 peace accord.

Kunda-dya-Base lies 175 km north of the provincial capital Malanje city, in a remote and inaccessible area.

United Nations officials working in the province said bridges leading to the town had been blown up in recent months and roads remind.

"These reports from Kunda-dya-Base have not been confirmed," said a U.N. official in Malanje contacted by Reuters. "That place is very remote."

Tensions have flared in Angola in recent weeks as both government and UNITA prepare for what the U.N. and diplomats believe could be a resumption of their civil war for control of the oil- and diamond-rich southern African nation.

The intervention of U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi last week brought conciliatory statements from both sides and a commitment to the 1994 peace agreement, signed in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

One of Brahimi's key aims was to pressure the government into toning down its anti-UNITA propaganda.

Two weeks ago the state media's dissemination of false information on another massacre, in the village of Bula in the neighbouring province of Lunda Norte, had led to a diplomatic confrontation between the Angolan government and the U.N.

U.N. sources reported Monday that there had been fighting in northern

Malanje province between government and UNITA forces.

"There is a government military operation going on to clean UNITA out of the Kisseno region, to the east of Cota," one U.N. official who asked not to be named told Reuters.

Foreign aid workers operating in Malanje have also confirmed a number of attacks in the region, believed to have been carried out by UNITA, over the last four days.

A government military vehicle was ambushed north of Cota on Aug. 6, and a high-ranking military officer was killed.

The diamond mining town of Campo Sungu, 120 km north of Malanje city, was attacked by armed men early on Aug. 7. Nine diamond dealers, three of them Portuguese citizens, were killed.

On Aug. 9 armed men attacked the town of Cumhaxe, only 15 km from Malanje city.

The armed forces spokesman has given no information on any of these incidents.

Foreign aid workers based in Malanje have been warned not to leave the city centre.

Colombian guerrillas 'will prove that hostages are alive'

BOGOTA (AFP) — Colombia's biggest rebel group has promised to give proof that 129 hostages taken during last week's guerrilla offensive are alive.

A spokesman for the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) said in a statement Monday that once all the captives — mostly soldiers and police officers — have been properly identified, a list with all their names will be issued.

He said it would take a few days to complete the task.

More than 200 people perished during last week's attacks on government forces all across the country by FARC and the National Liberation Army (ELN), military sources said.

The death toll includes 70 Colombian troops, Radio Caracol said late Monday, quoting official sources.

The offensive came in the final days of president Ernesto Samper's administration.

The FARC spokesman said that despite the violence, his group was seeking peace negotiations with the government, and reiterated a key rebel demand that all military forces be withdrawn from five southern departments.

Andrés Pastrana, Samper's successor sworn in Monday, has agreed to the troop pull-out.

Pastrana last month met with FARC leaders in rebel territory and has made reaching a peace agreement with FARC and the ELN a top priority.

With a drill tower as high as a 20-storey building, the vessel was unable to clear the Sydney Harbour Bridge, so was moored at a naval shipyard during its visit here.

The ship's co-chief scientist Philippe Huchon of the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris said the find could have major implications.

"The discovery of the deep bacterial biosphere has changed our perception of life from a surface 'fuzz' on the planet, and has profound implications for the biodiversity of our planet, fossil fuel formation, the origins of life on Earth and the potential for life on other planets," he said.

The Joides Resolution is to head south for sub-Antarctic waters next week to look at how the legacy of the ice ages has been recorded on the sea floor — work which could influence modern climate and global warming theory.

With a drill tower as high as a 20-storey building, the vessel was unable to clear the Sydney Harbour Bridge, so was moored at a naval shipyard during its visit here.

NEWS IN BRIEF

German prosecutors close books on alleged Stasi-RAF links

BERLIN (AP) — German authorities closed their books on cases involving ties between the former East German secret police and leftist terrorists in the West, saying Tuesday that recent court decision had made pursuing them pointless. "We had other views of the law than the Federal Court of Justice, but they were not shared," said chief investigator Christoph Schaeffgen. The high court in March overturned the convictions of three former officers of the East German secret police, known as the Stasi. They were the first and only to be tried on the alleged connection between the Stasi and the Red Army Faction, a leftist terrorist group active in West Germany in the 1970s and 1980s. Prosecutors said they helped spirit 10 RAF dropouts out of West Germany in the early 1980s, giving them new identities and helping them build new lives in East Germany. The three were convicted of obstructing justice in March 1997, reprimanded by the court and ordered to stay out of trouble for two years or face fines up to 5,000 marks (\$3,000). But a year later, the Federal Court of Justice overturned the convictions, saying that East Germany was not obligated under international law to reveal the whereabouts of RAF terrorists wanted for arrest in the West. Citing that ruling, a Berlin state court in mid-June refused to hear a trial against former Stasi boss Erich Mielke's deputy and the head of the Stasi's anti-terrorism division on similar charges. Schaeffgen said he was not aware of any other cases still open, but said no more would be pursued, since they would probably end with acquittal.

Czech president's health continues to improve

PRAGUE (AFP) — Czech President Vaclav Havel's temperature has returned to normal and he is continuing to exercise, Dr. Ilja Kotik said Tuesday. Kotik declined to say when a tracheotomy tube surgically inserted last week to assist Havel's breathing would be removed. It was his third tracheotomy in less than two years. Kotik stressed that doctors were satisfied with Havel's progress since last week's massive heart scare. The newspaper Mlada Fronta Dnes reported that the 61-year-old Havel planned to visit the United States in September. "We cannot say now whether such a trip would be realistic, because it is a long time from a medical point of view. But the president would very much like to go, and we will do what we can to allow him to go," Dr. Boris Stastny said. Sunday, Havel's office said he had accepted an invitation to go to Hannover, Germany, on Oct. 3 to attend a ceremony commemorating the eighth anniversary of German reunification. On Oct. 12, a conference of seven central European leaders is scheduled in Vienna. Havel, a former dissident playwright, has been dogged by health problems, including repeated bouts of bronchitis and pneumonia, since undergoing surgery for a cancerous tumour in December 1996. He underwent emergency bowel surgery in Austria in April. A long-time heavy smoker, Havel gave up cigarettes on medical advice following the 1996 operation.

British potholer stuck in cave

ARRAS, France (AFP) — A British potholer was trapped in a cave Tuesday situated in woods around the World War I Canadian memorial at Vimy, near this northern French city, rescue services said. Rescue teams were at the scene Tuesday with firemen and gendarmes. Another Briton managed to climb out of the cave unaided, rescue services said, but were unable to give details of what happened or how deep the cave is. A group of British potholers arrived Monday at the war memorial, in memory of Canadian WWI casualties, to explore the cave, memorial administrators said.

Over 700 kg marijuana seized in Italy

LECCE, Italy (AFP) — More than 700 kilograms of marijuana was seized in Italy's southern Lecce region, police said Tuesday. The drug, which had been packed into six different bags, was seized in a pine forest during routine border controls set up to uncover illicit immigration. Police said the area is frequently used by illegal Albanian immigrants trying to enter the country. In the same forest, close to the coast, police also found wet clothes which they said were evidence of immigrants who had just landed.

Lithuanians find 3km alcohol-smuggling pipeline

VILNIUS (IR) — Lithuanian alcohol producers have reported falling profits recently and local police may have discovered one reason why — a three kilometre pipeline smuggling high proof spirits from neighbouring Latvia. Police Tuesday seized the small country house of a former border guard in northern Lithuania after discovering a spring of the contraband alcohol flowing via an underground plastic pipeline from Latvia. "After several days of surveillance we discovered a plastic underground pipeline of around three kilometres in length used for smuggling strong spirits from Latvia," policeman Stanislovas Stonys told Reuters. "There was even a small pump installed, to pump alcohol to a capacity of around 12 cubic meters," he added. The Lithuanian government has said that fighting alcohol smuggling will be among its top priorities after first-half excise duties fell some 139 million litas (\$34.8 million) short.

Tiger seriously injures trainer at German circus

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — A circus tiger attacked its longtime keeper Monday night at a circus near Hamburg, seriously injuring the man. The 41-year-old man was shovelling sawdust through the bars into the cage when the 2-year-old tiger attacked, catching the man off guard, said Petra Boeke, a spokeswoman for the Siemencit-Barum circus, Tuesday. The tiger hit the man in his upper arm and wounded him in the face before a second animal trainer came to his aid, she said. The keeper, who has been with the circus for more than 20 years, was hospitalised with serious but not life-threatening injuries, police said. The circus, which has more than 100 employees and 80 animals, was visiting Eutin, a town about 45 miles northeast of Hamburg. Performances will continue as scheduled, Boeke said.

Milk scare has Britons wondering what they can safely eat and drink

LONDON (AFP) — It is an acknowledged fact that the millions of tourists who flock to Britain annually do not come for the food, but even Britons are now wondering what they can safely eat after a series of health scares.

Tuesday Britons woke up to learn that the milk on their doorstep could contain harmful bacteria found in cattle which causes the debilitating Crohn's disease in humans.

They have already been told they cannot eat beef on the bone and a new survey of last food products showed that much of it contained worrying levels of bacteria.

With many of the essentials of what makes up a staple diet for the average Briton of the 90s likely to be contaminated, Britons are asking themselves what they can eat without fear.

On the milk scare, Jeremy Sanderson, of London's Guy's Hospital, an expert on Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammation of the intestine, told BBC television there was genuine cause for concern but no need for consumers to boycott milk.

The government, which also assured the public that the nation's milk was safe with only the smallest risk to health, has nevertheless ordered a probe into alarming levels of bacteria found, even after pasteurisation.

The survey will test thousands of samples for mycobacterium paratuberculosis — the cause of

John's disease in cattle and one of several suggested causes of Crohn's disease.

Government food safety adviser Norman Simmonds said: "At best, there is no risk at all. At worst ... the risk is about one in five million if you drink a glass of milk."

There was a general welcome from the public and dairy farmers to the government's decision to inform the public without being alarmist.

Earlier this year the government came under harsh criticism when Agriculture Minister Jack Cunningham banned beef on the bone because of the slight risk of contamination from mad cow disease which can lead to the variant CJD disease in humans.

That action infuriated both public and farmers and earned the minister the nickname "Jackboots Cunningham."

To add to Britons' eating woes the magazine Health Watch, this week published a damning survey on health standards in fast food products.

It reported that "unsatisfactory levels of bacteria were found in different types of convenience food in tests carried out on 40 burgers, 35 portions of chips, 25 pieces of fried chicken, 30 doner kebabs and 20 pizza slices."

The survey was conducted at some of the best known fast-foods chains including McDonald's and Pizza Hut. It found that kebabs were generally the

worst health hazard with two types of food poisoning bacteria found, including listeria monocytogenes and staphylococcus aureus.

They also found unsatisfactory levels of E. coli bacteria in two kebabs, although not the potentially fatal strain.

Products from McDonald's and Pizza Hut chains contained bacteria which could indicate poor hygiene standards, it said. But both companies said they had carried out immediate investigations and assured customers there were no health risks linked to their products.

Two years ago 18 people died in Scotland after an outbreak of E. coli from infected meat which affected more than 500 people. There was more bad news for the public this week when it was revealed that tests showed genetically modified potatoes fed to rats could damage their immune systems and stunt their growth.

Foods Minister Jeff Rooker promised the government would maintain an "ultra-precautionary" approach to allowing genetically altered foods on to supermarket shelves. But he resisted calls to ban genetic altering practices.

Even the current heat-wave sweeping the country after one of the wettest and coldest summers on record has not helped the British diet. It has led to a sharp rise in reports of food poisoning from eating shellfish.

thought. "There seems to be far more organic life in the rocks than we had previously realised and this could support the idea that life started there and then came up to the surface," he told AFP.

"It is still a scientific frontier and this drilling programme is going to do more experiments to find out more about it."

With a crew of 110, including 30 scientists from around the world, the Joides Resolution is the biggest international

science project next to the space programme.

Since 1985, it has been on a perpetual mission to explore the evolution and structure of the earth.

"It's our Hubble telescope looking at the history of the sea floor and the oceans," said Keene, who manages the Australian element of the ship's programme.

The scientists will now work on culturing the bacteria and find out what energy source the unknown organism uses to live and multiply in its

dark and inhospitable home.

The ship's co-chief scientist Philippe Huchon of the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris said the find could have major implications.

"The discovery of the deep bacterial biosphere has changed our perception of life from a surface 'fuzz' on the planet, and has profound implications for the biodiversity of our planet, fossil fuel formation, the origins of life on Earth and the potential for life on other planets," he said.

The Joides Resolution is to head south for sub-Antarctic waters next week to look at how the legacy of the ice ages has been recorded on the sea floor — work which could influence modern climate and global warming theory.

Scientists make bacteria discovery in earth's crust

SYDNEY (AFP) — A colony of bacteria has been found thriving in ancient rock deep in the earth's crust, an international scientific team said Tuesday in a find that could help explain how life on the planet began.

The crew of the Joides Resolution, a scientific drill ship funded by 22 nations, docked in Sydney with core samples obtained from an active fault zone off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

"The persistence of apparently living microbial life in hard sedimentary rock as old as 15 million years and as deep as 846 metres into the subsurface extends the known limit of the biosphere," the scientists said in a statement.

University of Sydney geologist Professor Jack Keene said the discovery could help advance the new theory that life began deep inside the earth, and not in warm primordial swamps on the surface as had been

thought.

"There seems to be far more organic life in the rocks than we had previously realised and this could support the idea that life started there and then came up to the surface," he told AFP.

"It is still a scientific frontier and this drilling programme is going to do more experiments to find out more about it."

With a crew of 110, including 30 scientists from around the world, the Joides Resolution is the biggest international

science project next to the space programme.

Since 1985, it has been on a perpetual mission to explore the evolution and structure of the earth.

"It's our Hubble telescope looking at the history of the sea floor and the oceans," said Keene, who manages the Australian element of the ship's programme.

The scientists will now work on culturing the bacteria and find out what energy source the unknown organism uses to live and multiply in its

dark and inhospitable home.

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"The discovery of the deep bacterial biosphere has changed our perception of life from a surface 'fuzz' on the planet, and has profound implications for the biodiversity of our planet, fossil fuel formation, the origins of life on Earth and the potential for life on other planets," he said.

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Indian fighter loads a truck-mounted missile in preparation to taking on the Taliban in Taloqan, Masood's army town of Taloqan, Masood's army town of Taloqan, Masood's army town of Taloqan (AFP photo)

India to missile

DELHI (AFP) — India's defence ministry said Tuesday it had decided to upgrade its missile defence system to protect against the threat of ballistic missiles.

The ministry said the new system would be able to intercept and destroy incoming missiles at a range of up to 300 km.

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World News

Jordan Times, Wednesday, August 12, 1998

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A Taliban fighter loads a truck-mounted rocket launcher on the frontline, some 25 km north of the Afghan capital Kabul in preparation for taking on opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood. The Taliban captured the north-eastern town of Taloqan, Masood's crucial rear supply base as part of their recent dramatic sweep through the north of the country (AFP photo)

India to negotiate on fissile material treaty

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India will agree to negotiate an international ban on producing weapons-grade fissile material, a government spokesman said Tuesday. In a move analysts said was aimed at easing U.S. sanctions.

"Yes, India is for setting up an ad-hoc committee for starting talks on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT)," he said. The spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

The creation of the committee is to be discussed this week at a meeting of the 61-member Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

"We want to join the talks in a positive way and with a positive intent. Being a nuclear power, our stand will be closer to the other declared nuclear powers," the spokesman said.

India conducted five nuclear tests in May, triggering a tit-for-tat riposte from Pakistan. The action earned both countries sweeping global condemnation and international sanctions.

Before their May tests, New Delhi and Islamabad had firmly opposed a cut-off treaty. But having flexed their nuclear muscles, they now appear more amenable to the idea.

Pakistan has already agreed to take part in FMCT talks and the Conference on Disarmament received a further boost Tuesday when Israel announced it was also dropping its opposition to the negotiations.

But while a treaty would halt future output of fissile materials to make bombs — mainly highly enriched uranium and plutonium — some countries, including Pakistan, believe it should also address current stockpiles.

India and other members led by the United States want existing stockpiles to continue. "This is the same stand which other nuclear powers have adopted and our view is no different," the spokesman said.

A military source in New Delhi said India had enough stockpiled fissile material to furnish between 80 and 120 nuclear warheads — far more than Pakistan.

Experts in Geneva have warned that unless the conference reaches agreement on a president for the ad hoc body by the end of this year's final work session on Sept. 9, the initiative could fail.

Under the conference rules, if no president is selected the ad-hoc group does not formally exist. The subject would have to be debated from scratch when the conference starts its 1999 session in January.

Swaran Singh, analyst at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, said the Indian offer to agree to the ad-hoc committee or FMCT hought it a step closer to Washington.

"This is a concession that India is offering to the United States. It is a positive step and part of a bigger bargain for easing sanc-

tions imposed on India, especially on technology," Singh told AFP.

Singh said India's stand on the FMCT and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty "began to change after the nuclear tests."

"For the FMCT to become a treaty will take at least another four to five years. This will give India ample time to stock enough fissile material in whatever form it wants."

"By that time India will be in a position to sign the dotted line," Singh said.

India has not signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), arguing that the 1996 pact protects the domination of the five original nuclear states.

India and Pakistan's nuclear tests, while raising the spectre of a South Asian arms race, have ironically reinvigorated the Conference on Disarmament — the only multilateral forum for nuclear disarmament. It has not done any significant work in two years.

Taleban tighten grip on northern Afghanistan, capture second city

KABUL (AFP) — Taleban forces Tuesday tightened their grip on northern Afghanistan, smashing through defence lines to capture a second key opposition stronghold in a dawn attack, independent sources said.

Aid sources said anti-Taleban alliance troops loyal to ousted Kabul government strongman and former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood pulled out of his crucial north-eastern supply town of Taloqan after the lightning offensive.

The sources said Taleban troops met little resistance entering the town, the key base through which most of Masood's supplies travel, and have secured control of major road intersections and buildings.

Masood's forces quit the city following a brief spate of looting, they added, but were uncertain whether the pullout was a full withdrawal or a tactical retreat.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) in Islamabad also reported the city's fall, which comes after the purist militia captured the northern bastion of Mazar-i-Sharif Saturday, some 225 kilometres to the west of

Taloqan.

"Our forces have taken Taloqan with the opposition on the run," the private agency quoted an unnamed Taleban official as saying.

The fall of Taloqan was also confirmed in the Tajik capital by a diplomat at the Afghan embassy, representing the ousted government in exile and by the official Iranian news agency IRNA said in Tehran.

"The Taleban took control of the town this morning," the diplomat in Dushanbe said, asking not to be named.

INRA said: "The city of Taloqan fell to the Taleban moments ago."

Taloqan is just 150 kilometres south of the Tajik border with Afghanistan, and is north of Masood's Panjshir valley stronghold, from where he is battling the Taleban on frontlines north of Kabul.

Two of Masood's supply routes have now been cut and the third is only open for part of the year and passable on foot or by donkey.

Mazar-i-Sharif was the last major city to fall into the hands of the Taleban and the militia Tuesday had stepped up efforts to flush

out and disarm remnants of the resistance.

Sources said the Taleban had imposed a 24-hour curfew on the city of 500,000 residents with street patrols.

"The Taleban appear to be in total control and steadily neutralising the small pockets of resistance outside the city," an independent source who requested anonymity reported.

Taleban-run radio Shariat said with the bulk of opposition troops totally routed and in retreat to the central mountains, local commanders were steadily joining their ranks.

But further details of developments in Mazar-i-Sharif, which is about 450 kilometres north of Kabul, continued to be sketchy.

The borders with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are closed and there are no flights in from the United Nations or International Committee of the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, Hezb-i-Islami leader and former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar spoke on Iranian state radio Tuesday to contradict rumours he had been killed.

"As you hear me here today on Aug. 11, I am not

dead. The reports to the contrary are mere lies aimed at weakening the morale of our fighters," he said in a telephone conversation with the radio from Afghanistan.

He said all other leaders of the opposition forces in Afghanistan, including former President Burhanuddin Rabbani, "are in good health."

Representatives in Islamabad of Hezb-i-Islami, part of the opposition alliance, had earlier denied reports Hekmatyar had been killed.

Sources said Hekmatyar was in northeastern Badkshan province.

A spokesman for Masood said in a telephone interview he could neither confirm nor deny the reports.

The anti-Taleban alliance includes ex-Communist and ethnic Uzbek Abdul Rashid Dostam, the ousted Kabul government of president Burhanuddin Rabbani as well as Masood, the Hezb-i-Wahdat, and several other splinter groups.

The Taleban now hold about three quarters of civil-war ravaged Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul, and have imposed what they say is the world's purest Islamic state.

18 Rwandans killed near Kinshasa

KINSHASA (R) — President Laurent Kabila's loyalist troops fought a gun battle with fleeing Rwandan soldiers at a village outside the Democratic Republic of the Congo capital, killing 18 of them, state radio reported Tuesday.

Officials said the Rwandans were part of the force that helped Kabila topple dictator Mobutu Sese Seko last year but who are accused of fomenting a rebellion in Kabila's army this month.

The clash, at Kasangulu 40 km west of Kinshasa, took place of Monday, the radio said.

Those killed were among an estimated 100 Rwandan soldiers fleeing after failing to incite Congolese soldiers in the capital to join a Tutsi-led revolt, the radio said.

There was no independent confirmation of the report. "Those Rwandan soldiers were hoping to cross the Congo River into the (neighbouring) Republic of Congo by canoe... 18 were killed among the Rwandan soldiers and four government troops wounded," the radio said.

It described Kasangulu as calm but gave no details as to the fate of the remaining rebels.

Soldiers from Congo's ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge minority launched the revolt in the eastern town of Goma on Aug. 2. They held Goma, Bukavu and Uvira in the east and three towns in the strategic western River Congo corridor supplying Kinshasa.

Kabila, helped to power by the Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated army and the Banyamulenge in May

1997, has accused Rwanda and Uganda of fomenting the revolt and sending troops to support it. Both countries reject the charges.

Kabila's army says it has counterattacked on both fronts. An Organisation of African Unity mediation mission held talks on the crisis with officials in Kinshasa Monday and was headed for Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania Tuesday.

Sources close to the mission said it was investigating Congolese charges of aggression by Rwanda and Uganda.

There was no immediate word on the outcome of their talks with some of Kabila's cabinet ministers.

The mission followed the failure of a weekend regional summit in Zimbabwe's resort of Victoria Falls to mediate an end to fighting that has spread in the east and west of the vast country since the rebellion erupted on Aug. 2.

After a week of stunning setbacks, Kabila's army said Monday it was holding its ground against Rwandan-backed rebels on both fronts of the fighting.

Official media and spokesmen in Kinshasa said loyalist troops had evicted Tutsi-led rebels near the mouth of River Congo and were advancing on rebel positions in the east.

There was no independent confirmation of the official accounts of fighting in either front.

However, state radio in Rwanda monitored by the BBC Monday night reported heavy fighting in the northwest of Democratic Congo close to Congo

Republic. "Rebels fighting the Kabila regime are said to be in control of the oil-rich areas of Kivu, Banana and Muanda," it said.

Kivu is an important garrison town while Muanda and Banana are on the small Atlantic coast and sites for oil and naval facilities respectively.

Kabila's Information Minister and government spokesman Didier Muniengi told Reuters that army loyalists were advancing on rebel positions in the east.

"Until now we have only used infantry in the Bukavu and Uvira regions," he said. "The Rwandans have problems in the east. They are starting to retreat."

State radio in its account said the strategic Congo River ports Boma and Matadi, about 350 km southwest of Kinshasa, were quiet and controlled by government troops.

Congolese officials had not previously acknowledged that rebels had reached Boma and there was no independent confirmation of the radio report.

Rwanda meanwhile told the U.N. Security Council in a letter circulated Monday that it had played no part in an uprising by troops in its western neighbour.

"What is happening in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a purely internal matter, which the authorities... are trying to externalise by looking for scapegoats," Rwandan U.N. representative Gideon Kayinamuna told council President Danilo Turk of Slovenia in the letter.

138 China dissidents ask for Wang Youcai to be released

BEIJING (AFP) — More than 130 Chinese dissidents have signed a petition calling on President Jiang Zemin to release fellow dissident Wang Youcai, who was formally arrested last week for trying to register a pro-democracy party.

Saying they were "profoundly shocked" by his arrest on charges of "incitement to overthrow state power" the 138 dissidents urged Jiang to press police in the eastern province of Zhejiang to "immediately release Wang Youcai" and drop the investigation against him.

Among the more prominent signatories of the petition, a copy of which was sent to AFP Tuesday, were Mao Guoliang, Wang Donghai, Wu Gaoxing, Xu Wenli and Qin Yongmin.

In June, at the start of a historic visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton, Wang and two other dissidents, Wang Donghai and Lin Hui, formally applied to register the Chinese Democracy Party.

It was the first such challenge to the one-party rule of the Communist Party since it came to power in China in 1949.

Police detained some 20 activists associated with the party in the weeks following Clinton's visit, but only 32-year-old Wang remains in custody.

At least three members set free last month, including Wang Donghai, Zhu Yufu and Zhu Zhengming, were warned by police not to leave their homes and remain under quasi-house arrest.

Wang spent three years behind bars for his role in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. Beijing named him as the 15th most wanted student leader after the military crushed the pro-democracy demonstrations.

Japanese police identify poison in leftover tea

TOKYO (R) — Japanese police said Tuesday they had identified the substance which poisoned 10 workers in northern Japan who collapsed after drinking tea and coffee at work.

Investigators found sodium azide, a highly toxic substance used to inflate airbags in cars, in one of the samples from the leftover tea, a police spokesman in the city of Niigata told a news conference.

The victims fell ill and were hospitalised Monday, suffering

from vomiting, numbness in the hands and feet, and other symptoms.

Police initially said they believed they found traces of cyanide in the victims' vomit, but later retracted the report saying further tests showed no signs of the deadly substance.

Public fears stoked by the incident less than two weeks after a poisoned curry killed four people and left more than 60 others ill in western Japan prompted police to order checks on stocks

of all poison products.

The National Police Agency (NPA) said in a report to the cabinet it had ordered all local authorities to check stocks of poisonous substances and tighten controls, top government spokesman Hiromu Nonaka said.

"The report said the attacks are heightening public anxieties," Nonaka told reporters.

Reflecting the nation's alarm over the two poisoning incidents, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's cabinet demanded urgent

police action to solve the crimes.

An NPA official told Reuters that authorities fear the Niigata incident may be a copycat crime based on last month's curry poisoning.

In the July 25 incident, police found traces of cyanide and arsenic in curry served at a summer festival in Wakayama, about 450 km west of Tokyo.

No arrests have been made in either case. "Japan is becoming such a dangerous place," the father of

one of the Niigata victims told reporters. "It's impossible to feel safe until they find out just who has done this."

Japanese media said investigations were centring on whether poison was poured into the percolator used to boil water for the tea and coffee.

The employee in charge of serving the drinks told police she had filled the water percolator and left it switched on when she went home Friday.

There was no sign of forced entry into the

firm's offices, where a security system was installed, and investigators are looking into the possibility of insiders being involved in the crime, police said.

Criminal psychologist Susumu Oda said the two incidents probably had one thing in common: the perpetrator's delight in watching police scramble to solve the crimes.

"Whoever did this is probably thrilled by watching the turmoil in the aftermath of the incidents," Oda said.

One of the most notorious crimes in postwar Japan occurred in 1948 when a man posing as a health official dispensed what he called dysentery vaccine to the staff of the then Teikoku Bank in Tokyo.

Twelve people died from cyanide poisoning in the incident. Sadamichi Hirasawa, an artist, was arrested and spent 38 years on death row for the crime until his death in 1987 at age 95.

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The battle goes on

NOW THAT the Lower House has approved the draft press and publications law, journalists are counting down the days until the government finally shuts them up once and for all. It is, as the chief editor of Al Dustour newspaper put it, the "last dance" for the country's media, but with no encores in sight.

The praiseworthy intention, of course, is to make the media more responsible. But the question then is, responsible to what? The government or truth?

The most disturbing aspect of the ongoing water scandal is not the fact that the drinking water of a city with over two million residents was contaminated and became dangerous to consume, but that the government intentionally covered up about it. The press, responsible to the truth, thus performed an invaluable service to the country by first exposing the fact that the water was contaminated, and then by calling out the attempted cover-up.

Jordan now is at an important crossroads in its history. The one resource it can depend upon, the one resource that will never run out, is the human resource. Jordan must develop its citizenry to be able to meet the challenges of the next century and beyond, and the only way to do this is by the free exchange of information and ideas.

But the entire point of information exchange is lost when one cannot even talk about what is going on in one's own country. How will the future of Jordan develop if we cannot rely upon local institutions for accurate information? Will we have to depend on Western media, knowing its bias against the Middle East, for information on Jordan? Or perhaps we can rely upon The Jerusalem Post and Maariv for important local developments while we look at pretty pictures of ministers shaking hands in the local press?

It is difficult to believe that the new law will actually result in an increase in press freedoms, as Information Minister Abdullah Ensour assured us on Monday. He may be correct, but the voices of journalists, political groups, unions, rights groups, both local and international, and former ministers are answering to the contrary.

It seems that the press has lost this round and the government won. But only time will tell if Jordan will benefit from closing its eyes, ears, and mouth to the facts both inside and outside the country. But the battle for a free press has not ended. The press was not fighting against the government per se, but rather for the right to speak the truth.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Tareq Masarweh was critical of the handling of the latest development in the ongoing water problem in the capital. He said Munther Haddadin to resign as minister of water and irrigation and handing his portfolio to the energy minister was no solution to the crisis. Masarweh said the responsibility for the water crisis lay with the secretary general of the ministry, the bureaucrats, the engineers and administrators working at the Zai Water Treatment Plant, and all Water Authority employees in the Jordan Valley. He said the new minister-in-charge, Mohammad Hourani, does not have a magic wand to wave and make the crisis disappear. Masarweh called upon the government to make the details of the national water strategy public and tackle the water supply issue on a regional rather than a national level.

Al Dustour's Jihad Mommani questioned the benefits of the recent resignation of water minister, Munther Haddadin. The writer called on the public trial of Haddadin and the government. He said sacking the minister will not solve any problem. According to Mommani, the minister jeopardised the lives of Jordanians, and thus must be punished for what the writer termed a heinous crime. The one responsible for a nation wide crisis will get away without even being questioned, said Mommani. He said Haddadin will have the chance to work in the private sector enjoying his pension while Jordanians continue to live in daily fear. Mommani said the former minister could be re-appointed as water minister in one of the next governments because he was ordered to resign from the Water Authority 10 years ago for a similar water crisis.

Washington Watch

U.S. public ready for an Arab campaign

AN AUGUST 1-3, 1998 poll conducted for the Arab American Institute in Washington shows that the attitudes of U.S. voters towards Israel and the Palestinians are now dead even.

In response to policy questions the institute has been asking for the past two years, U.S. voters reject any U.S. policy that demonstrates bias towards Israel. At the same time, U.S. voters express strong support (3 to 1) should the U.S. administration decide to pressure Israel to comply with the terms of the Middle East peace process.

As promising as these results may be, they will only be meaningful if they are acted upon. Unfortunately, in all likelihood, they will not be.

During the past two years the Clinton administration has sought to use subtle forms of pressure to shift Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's posture toward the peace process. The prime minister has withstood these efforts, knowing that the U.S. administration had limits. In this test of wills, it appears that, so far, Netanyahu has won. President Clinton seems unwilling and unable to take a more decisive and public stand against the Israeli government. Not only the active opposition of the Republican Congress, the pressures of the upcoming congressional elections and resistance from the strong pro-Israel lobby weigh heavily on the president, Clinton's growing difficulties with the investigations of the Office of the Independent Counsel have also become a substantial burden distracting the White House from involvement in several critical issues, both foreign and domestic.

Despite the fact that the president's personal popularity remains quite high and a strong display of presidential leadership to save the peace process would most likely win significant public support, it is unlikely that he will take such a stand anytime soon.

What is also true, is that the Arabs will most likely do nothing to take advantage of the new public opinion situation in the United States.

To a great extent the shift in U.S. attitudes has come about without any effort by an Arab state. Netanyahu has single-handedly made the greatest contribution to alienating U.S. voters from their previously strong pro-Israel positions. The administration's subtle message of displeasure with Israeli policy and with Netanyahu, himself, has also helped this shift.

With U.S. support for Israel at its lowest point, Netanyahu and his U.S. supporters are planning a major fall offensive. Netanyahu, himself, will spend a week in the United States, his ambassadors are campaigning non-stop to get their message on television and in print, and Israeli supporters have announced a major public relations campaign against Palestinian statehood.

The Palestinian office in Washington, on the other hand, remains underfunded, and without an adequate staff and programme. No other Arab embassy, to the best of my knowledge, has any initiative in the works and no Arab leaders have announced plans to tour the United States in a focused effort to capitalise on this new political situation.

Netanyahu understands all of this. He allowed the July 29 Knesset deadline to pass without making a decision to withdraw from some of the occupied Palestinian lands

both because he didn't want to and because he knew that he didn't have to.

Netanyahu manoeuvred successfully to mute his opposition within Israel and hold together enough of his coalition in order to protect his government. At the same time Netanyahu knew that there would be no decisive move from the United States, nor would there be any effective Arab countermove to expose his obstructionism.

Like the ideologue that he is, the prime minister is willing to absorb unpopularity at home and abroad as long as it can be managed so as not to threaten his position.

Netanyahu is willing to live with disapproval, as long as it is toothless. He is also willing to accept terrorism and violence, since these actually play into his hands — strengthening his position at home and reinforcing negative Arab stereotypes abroad.

Only a strong Arab public relations counteroffensive can alter this sorry state of affairs. Arab Americans can and are doing their part as Americans, but Arab states have a necessary role to play. They must bring their political weight to bear in the United States. A public campaign should be launched to promote Palestinian rights and to spell out to the U.S. public the dangers that U.S. inaction and a collapse of the peace process pose to America's interests in the Middle East.

The new openness that exists in the public arena must be filled with defined policy options that press the administration and Congress to act to defend peace and U.S. interests. This moment, as ripe as it is for change, will not last forever.

Netanyahu understands all of this. He allowed the July 29 Knesset deadline to pass without making a decision to withdraw from some of the occupied Palestinian lands

The Taleban have won — now they must join the world

By JJ Fergusson

NOW THAT they control 90 per cent of Afghanistan the Taleban are bound to press for Western recognition.

It appeared to be third time lucky for Afghanistan's Taleban Islamic movement this weekend as their forces rolled into Mazar-i-Sharif, stronghold of the opposition northern alliance which repelled the southern invaders twice last year. Reports on the extent of the city's occupation remain confused, but even Asad Ullah, spokesman for the most important alliance figure, the ethnic Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid Dostum, acknowledged a defeat.

"Our forces have been scattered everywhere," he said. "There is not much we can do at the moment in the north."

So what does the West do now? So far only three countries, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have recognised the Taleban as Afghanistan's legitimate rulers. Britain and the West still recognise the ousted president, the ethnic Tajik Burhanuddin Rabbani, which is a source of deep irritation to the Taleban leadership. Before this weekend the militia controlled about two-thirds of Afghanistan. Now that they control nine-tenths of it they are certain to press their case for Western recognition harder than ever.

Taleban spokesmen in Islamabad have not ceased to point out the advantages of their regime. First among these, they say, is the peace they have brought to the areas they con-

trol, achieved by a policy of disarmament. Certainly, the lawless bandits that still plague the north have all but disappeared to the south, which has allowed farmers, for example, to drive their produce to market again. Something like normal life has resumed for a population that is utterly weary of 19 consecutive years of war. Even some northerners acknowledge that achievement.

The Taleban, who are mostly Pashtuns, by far the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan, claim they have a popular mandate (though this is certainly not the case in the Dari-speaking north); they say they stand for stability, for trade, and for peace under the eyes of God. Afghanistan's neighbours, Iran and Russia, fear that the Taleban intend to export their fiery brand of Islam and have consistently, though not openly, supplied the opposition with money and arms. The Taleban angrily deny the charge, saying their ambitions extend no further than Afghanistan's borders, and blame the extension of the war on "foreign interference."

They may have a point, though the timing of the East African bombings could hardly have been worse for the Taleban in public relations terms. The U.S. prime suspect for the outrages in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam is the Saudi extremist Osama Bin Laden, who makes his home in Taleban-controlled Afghanistan.

Strangely enough, Afghanistan has not joined Libya, Syria et al in the Western consciousness as har-

bourers of Islamic terrorism. At least, not yet. This may be because Western attention has been directed elsewhere, notably towards the more extreme aspects of the Taleban's faith, and in particular their treatment of women.

The uproar that greeted the 1996 edicts banning women from working and going to school, and enforcing the veil, came as a genuine surprise to the Taleban. They pointed out, with some justification, that there was nothing new in their edicts: Pashtuns have been locking up their women for centuries. What business was it of the West to complain, now that the Taleban had come to prominence?

The Taleban had its Western

With their victory in Mazaran an important excuse for Taleban intransigence has been taken away.

apologists. Some said that allowances should be made for naivety in such a young movement, and that in time, military success would foster a greater sense of international responsibility. After all, the Taleban did not exist before 1994, and it remains, essentially, a militia of students. Its troops are traditionally drawn from the rural medressahs, or religious schools, where orphans from

the war with Russia were deposited and educated with no other text than the Koran.

There is little sign, however, that the Taleban are maturing. Indeed, relations with the West have if anything grown worse. A number of high-profile visits by Western emissaries have ended in disaster, notably that of the European Commissioner, Emma Bonino, whom the Taleban's supreme commander, the one-eyed Mullah Mohammed Omar, refused even to see because her delegation contained women. Meanwhile, edicts from the splendidly named Ministry for the Fostering of Virtue and the Suppression of Vice have not diminished, and are ever more Monty Pythonesque in flavour. Ground-floor windows must be blacked out in case passers-by might spot a woman out of her birqa. Public hair must be shaved; spot checks were briefly introduced in Kabul's pedestrian subways. Less funny is the Taleban's attitude to the cultivation of opium. Despite a Taleban promise to eradicate the crop they are aided by a four-year, \$16.4m U.N.-sponsored drugs control programme, which seeks to encourage the country's estimated 200,000 opium farmers to plant more wholesome crops in exchange for aid. Production this year has in fact increased by 25 per cent. Some 90 per cent of all heroin in the U.K. now originates in Afghanistan. There is little doubt that the Taleban are hypocritically exploiting the opium trade to fund their war with the north.

Even more indicative of the

Taleban's disdain for the West, perhaps, is its attitude towards the Western aid community. The Afghans desperately need our aid and expertise if their shattered country is ever to be rebuilt. But the Taleban have constantly objected to the presence of women among the aid teams based in Kabul; and earlier this year they demanded that the various aid agencies, for reasons of "management," decamp into a single compound in the capital. The majority of Western aid organisations has now ceased operations in Kabul and withdrawn from the country.

Under these circumstances it is hard to see how the Taleban can possibly expect the West to recognise them as Afghanistan's rightful rulers. Yet expect it they do. The gulf of misunderstanding is as wide as ever. With their victory in Mazaran an important excuse for Taleban intransigence has been taken away. They can no longer regretfully point to the exigencies of war as the reasons for their heavy-handed control of the population; and with the fulfilment of their stated military ambitions, they will be forced to prove their credentials as peacetime rulers. This they cannot do without Western aid. Yet the West, and rightly, refuses to give the Taleban that unless they make some serious concessions in the field of human rights. If they want Western recognition, then the ball is in their court. It is time for the Taleban to grow up.

— The Independent

Letters

A partial response

To the editor:

THIS IS a partial response to what the Jordan Times has been reporting about the "water crisis" and the public "outrage." In its coverage, the Jordan Times sounded unlike its own self. It read and sounded like the Arabic weekly papers that thrive on instigated excitement, and phony headlines. The time will come when the Jordan Times readers will realise the mistake their only duty has committed by joining an orchestrated assault on my own person. It is condescending that my own reputation, skills and track record have been earned by my own efforts and not promoted by the papers that mounted a "blitz" on my own person. Consequently, my integrity, reputation and established track record cannot be tarnished by this designed assault.

My partial response is aimed at the contents of the latest editorial on August 11, 1998, entitled "Sharing responsibility." While I fully agree with the notions emphasised in your editorial concerning public participation and the mounting press campaigns flagging the proportions of the water shortages in the country, I find myself, among other disagreements, not in agreement with your attitude towards irrigated agriculture. Your attitude is not new, but is rather instigated by and shared with several donor parties in the West, who preach urban water security at the expense

of rural areas. To start with, your figures of water consumed by irrigated agriculture are wrong, and so is the percentage of agricultural use compared to the total renewable water resources. In Jordan, irrigation seldom uses in excess of 550 mcm/year and not 750 as your editorial claimed; and such use constitutes about 68% and not 75% of the renewable water resources. Additionally, some 65 million cubic metres of agricultural use is actually recycled treated wastewater. However, I do not intend to pull you into technical dialogues in which I am sure you will not win, but I want to stress the following clear facts:

* Urban population (and rural population too) need water, food and shelter to survive, along with other needs for prosperity. Rural areas produce food commodities to meet the needs of population. Productivity of the irrigated land is good and ranks better than most other countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Your claim that 750 mcm of irrigation water flows into a poor and thirsty soil is not quite objective.

* The rural food producers are a segment of society that deserve attention and support. Their mere presence in rural Jordan is a tribute to them for which they deserve not only the rhetorical support, but also actual subsidy like all other nations provide to their farmers.

* Diversion of irrigation water to urban use implied in your editorial is a risky business. No such ideas should be enter-

tained before thorough analysis of the social, economic, political, environmental and public health impacts are made.

* The pricing of water in Jordan is based on the principle of cost recovery, and the "polluter pays" principle. The cost of urban water supply per one million cubic metres is considerably more than the cost of the same quantity supplied to Jordan Valley farmers. This explains the disparity between urban water prices and Jordan Valley irrigation water pricing.

* Well owners who now sell water to the public had obtained permits to drill and sell in the early 1960's. They are helping meet a need in an efficient private sector business. Water in the aquifer is a communal property, and well owners are permitted to charge only the fair cost of abstraction and filling of tankers. Any abuse of their role can be rectified by government.

* Over the past year, I have laid down a comprehensive water strategy for the Kingdom, and published four "Policy Papers," all issued by decree of the Council of Ministers. These spell out the government's policies in the water sector. An investment plan was formulated along with a water balance schedule, all charting our roads into the future until the year 2025.

One last point in this partial response. Please do not preach ideas with the notion that Jordan is a water-rich country with lots of other wealth sources. Our own renewable water resources can comfort-

ably accommodate only 1.5 million people. Today we have about 4.6 million. This means that water resources are stressed three times more than they should be. It also explains the deficit in the foreign trade balance in food commodities (JD115/capita in 1997), and the urban water shortage. It further explains the sensitivity of our limited resources to pollutants. The high cost of urban water is attributed to the long haul of water to these areas and the associated high lift that consumes energy. In fact, Jordan has a trilemma summarised in one word: "Liquidity." It means:

a - liquid money: the per capita share of national income is modest, around \$1600 per year.

b - water: the per capita share of renewable water resources does not exceed 175 cubic metres per year compared to the share of, say, a Canadian that amounts to 500 times that much, and,

c - energy translated into electricity, often termed in the USA as "juice", i.e. liquid. Jordan does not have substantial indigenous energy resources.

The many issues you sketchily raised are worthy of specialised reports, especially when the journalists and their papers are interested in objectivity and not in chasing exciting but phony headlines.

Dr. Munther J. Haddadin
 Former Minister of Water and Irrigation

Features

Wasteland

By Teresa Poole

Along the coast, it was one of the most beautiful places I had ever seen. The sea was a deep blue, the sky was a pale blue, and the sand was a golden yellow. The sun was shining brightly, and the waves were crashing against the shore. It was a perfect day, and I was feeling like a child again.

But then I looked down at the ground. The sand was not golden yellow, it was a dark, almost black, color. It was covered in a thick layer of oil, and the waves were crashing against the shore, creating a thick, black foam. The sun was shining brightly, and the sky was a pale blue, but the air was thick with the smell of oil. It was a terrible sight, and I was feeling like I was in a wasteland.

The oil was coming from a pipeline that had leaked, and the waves were crashing against the shore, creating a thick, black foam. The sun was shining brightly, and the sky was a pale blue, but the air was thick with the smell of oil. It was a terrible sight, and I was feeling like I was in a wasteland.

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Physicists inve

Alain Desreuliers

German scientists have found a way to create a new type of material that could revolutionize the way we build things. The material is called "metamaterial" and it has the ability to bend light around itself, making it invisible. This is a major breakthrough in the field of physics, and it could have many practical applications in the future.

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Mini car wa

PROMOTIONAL

between Korea's leading automakers who are pitching their mini cars, to a market that is still largely untapped. The cars are small, efficient, and easy to drive, making them a popular choice in many developing countries.

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Features

Jordan Times, Wednesday, August 12, 1998

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Wasteland village saved by its women

By Teresa Poole

HATGAL, Mongolia — It was one of those Hatgal mornings for 77-year-old Dolgin.

"My eldest son works as a nightwatchman guarding a small store. Last night he was drunk with some other people, so the police arrested them and kept them in the police station."

Leaning wearily on her two crutches at 7:30am, she had just been to the lock-up.

"The police say they have to investi-

gate," she said.

Crime is hardly a problem in Hatgal,

because there is nothing much to steal.

Unemployment and excessive drinking,

on the other hand, certainly are. And it is

the women of the village who are picking

up the pieces, trying fast to reinvent a

raison d'être for this shrinking community

on Mongolia's far-flung northern border

with Russia.

In her office, Hatgal's elected woman

governor, Togiohnyam, sat with her two

female senior colleagues, reflecting on

how far Hatgal has sunk. The deputy

governor, Hishigsuren (who like most

Mongolians uses one name), said: "In the

old days, there was discipline and prin-

ciples which were followed. People have

become more inactive. Before 1990, the

consumption of alcohol was not at the

same level as now."

The old days must seem like another

world for the residents who are clinging

on.

Hatgal's heyday was the late 1980s

when its remoteness was its strength. Sit-

ting at the southern tip of Lake Hovsgol,

the world's second largest freshwater

lake, Hatgal was a busy trading town

with a population of 6,500.

Wandering the deserted desolate vil-

lage and surrounding grasslands, now

home to just 2,800, it seems unimagin-

able that transport trucks used to have to

queue for two days to pick up goods from

the lakeside port.

Lake Hovsgol was Hatgal's lifeline to

the world. The lake stretches 85 miles to

the north, almost to the border. For seven

decades, Mongolia was a satellite com-

munist state of the USSR, and Soviet-

traded goods and raw materials trundled

down this route. In the brief summer,

there were non-stop cargo ferries. During

the winter, when temperatures drop to

-40C, the frozen lake was a highway for

trucks.

The good life stopped abruptly in 1989,

when Ulan Bator banned transportation

on the increasingly polluted lake on envi-

ronmental grounds. The next year, Mon-

golia peacefully abandoned commu-

nism, and the Soviet Union abandoned

Mongolia, cutting off subsidies equiv-

alent to 30 per cent of gross domestic

product. Hatgal suddenly found itself at

the end of a long road which no longer

went anywhere.

During the early 1990s, it was bad

everywhere in Mongolia, but it was

worse in Hatgal. The 10 factories all

closed, thirsty for subsidised Soviet oil

and benefit of markets. "Only 250 people

are now employed in Hatgal, out of a

labour force of 1,600," said Togiohnyam.

It is a bleak, windswept settlement.

Low houses and traditional gers tents sit

behind stockade fences, with empty

wasteland in between. In summer,

groups of men sit around on the streets,

while Hatgal's two policemen keep the

peace. There is no electricity, because

Hatgal has no money for diesel to fuel the

Japanese-donated generator. On the out-

skirts of the village sit the carcasses of

abandoned buildings, stripped years ago

for scrap. The number of secondary

school students collapsed from 1,700 to

560 as people moved away. The only

bright development is that Hatgal, not

previously a herding centre, now boasts

20,000 private livestock — for food.

So the women are trying to rescue Hat-

gal. "Most of the administration people

here are women. We top three are all

women," said 44-year-old Togiohnyam.

It was in 1994 that the Hatgal villagers

requested that she run for governor. Born

and raised in Hatgal, she had left for Ulan

Bator at the age of 18.

Her career as Communist Party mem-

ber and top official at the national Youth

Federation saw her rise to the ranking of

a deputy minister. But when communism

gave way to democracy and free market

capitalism in 1990, she was unceremon-

iously dumped.

Unemployed, Togiohnyam started

trading privately with China and Russia,

and Hatgal heard about her success. In

the 1994 local polls, she was elected Hat-

gal's governor, the first woman in the

post. She ran as a Mongolian People's

Revolutionary Party (MPRP) member,

the old Communist Party. "The party

made some mistakes, of course, in its his-

tory but there were a lot of achieve-

ments."

Tragedy then struck. In 1995, her busi-

nessman husband drowned, leaving her

with a son, now eight, and a village still

near collapse. Improving the lives of the

women became a priority. "Sometimes

when I started as governor, women just

came into my office, put their babies on

my table and told me their children need-

ed to eat." At the end of 1997, some 78

per cent of Hatgal's under-18s were clas-

sified as malnourished.

— The Independent

Physicists invent smart glass, but lack cash to market it

By Gesine Desgroseilliers

GIESSEN, Germany — A team of German scientists has come up with a way of treating window glass so that it reflects most of the hot summer sun away from a building, yet soaks in the weak sunlight of winter so as to save on heating bills. The trouble is, the physicists at Giessen University say they lack funds to turn the idea into a commercial product.

Their brainwave was to coat glass with a thin layer of vanadium dioxide. Unfortunately, that makes the view through the glass rather murky, and the researchers are struggling to make it more transparent. Who

needs windows if you can't admire the view?

"To refine this idea and to adapt the coating to various climatic conditions we need an investor, ideally an industrial user," said Bruno Meyer, a professor at one of Giessen's physics institutes.

Modern buildings have good insulation in the walls, but still tend to leak warmth, inwards and outwards, through the windows. In colder countries, that means expensive heating energy is wasted in winter. In summer, buildings with lots of windows — such as modern high-rises — become heat-traps. So more energy is wasted on cooling them. Reflective

glass helps, but it becomes a handicap in winter-time.

Meyer's task force decided to invent "smart" glass that changed its behaviour according to the season, and hit on vanadium dioxide as the answer because of its property of letting through radiation at cold temperatures but blocking its passage when summer comes.

In the Giessen laboratory, the compound was applied to the glass as a vapour. The temperature at which it is applied is critical, because the hotter the vapour, the bigger the crystals that form and the better the switching properties of the coating.

In practice however, the vapour cannot be applied hotter than 500 degrees Celsius, which is the maximum temperature of window-glass during manufacture. Anything hotter would require wholesale changes in glassmaking.

The thinnest the Giessen scientists have managed to make a coating is 100 nanometres: about one thousandth the thickness of a human hair. But that is still not thin enough to see through clearly.

Their glass is only 40 per cent as transparent as normal glass, whereas conventional tinted windows let through 70 to 80 per cent of the light that would go through untreated

glass. The solution would be to make the coating even thinner and add an anti-reflex layer. Computer simulations by the team suggest an anti-reflex treatment would improve transparency by 60 per cent.

But the academics fear they are getting out of their depth. Elaborate research to create a "glass for all seasons" that people would want to buy is beyond the resources of the university department, said Meyer ruefully. If the boffins cannot find an investor, their idea will remain just that: an idea.

— Deutsche Presse-Agentur

'Mini car war' accused of impropriety

THE PROMOTIONAL battle between Korea's two leading automakers, who are pitching their 800-cc mini cars, has become a mudslinging match, prompting government intervention and public criticism, industry sources said recently.

Commenting on the marketing war between Hyundai Motor Co.'s Atoz, and Daewoo Motor Co.'s Matiz, an official of the Fair Trade Commission said the antitrust watchdog is to make a final ruling soon over whether their advertisements of mini subcompact models have violated fair trade rules.

"Right now, the government's preliminary view on the issue is that the small car ads by both companies appear to have unjustifiably degraded each other's product," the official said.

The nation's two largest automakers, desperate to survive a recession in the domestic car market, are frantically promoting their mini cars, failing to stop short of implicit slander.

Hyundai Motor Co., Korea's largest automaker, has advertised its Atoz, a four-cylinder model, as more powerful than a three-cylinder Matiz of Daewoo Motor Co.

The No. 2 carmaker wasted no time in sending a counter punch with an ad depicting Matiz zooming over one mountain path after another, while a small car resembling the Atoz fails to make it over even one mountain.

"Hyundai's ad can

mislead consumers into believing that four-cylinder cars always perform better than three-cylinder ones, while Daewoo's promotion gives the impression that a specific car

required to apologise to the public as well as publicly rectify them.

Meanwhile, even as the government has stepped in to stop the advertising slugfest, the two rival car makers

The result was a draw. Both cars climbed to the top of the mountain along the pass with little difficulties. Each took about 25 minutes going about 7 kilometres uphill.

To the relief of Hyundai officials, the test drive proved Daewoo's argument wrong that Atoz may not climb a steep mountain as implied in the Daewoo Matiz ad.

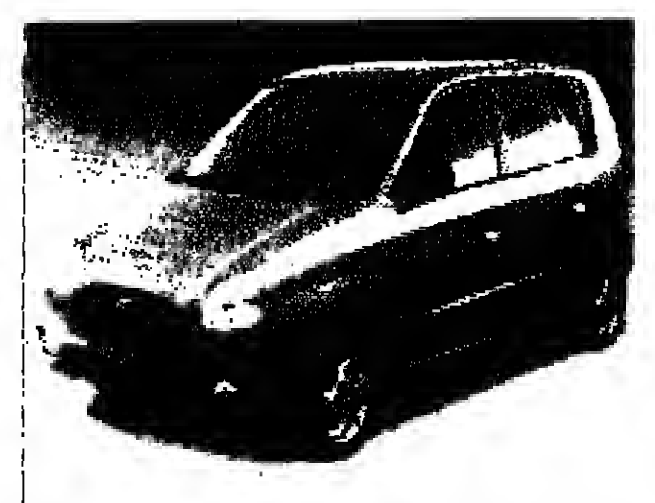
However, the driving battle is not the end of the duel.

Organisers of the event said that the next test will take place on an unpaved road to see the strength of chassis of the two rival cars.

Separately from the uphill and unpaved road tests, they have been conducting 20,000-kilometre durability test of Matiz and Atoz. Both cars reached a 10,000 kilometres mark as of July 21, they said.

Industry watchers, however, said that the all-or-nothing advertising war over the small domestic market between the automakers which represent Korea leaves something to think over. "Moreover, the auto industry is now reeling under the double troubles of marketing slump and labour unrest," said an analyst. "Now is the time for the domestic businesses to join forces to find a breakthrough in overseas sales to ride out the slump."

— News Review-Korea



Hyundai's Atoz



Daewoo's Matiz

model, though unidentified, cannot climb a steep mountain," the official said.

He said that if the ads are judged as unfair, the two companies will be

had a car test between Atoz and Matiz July 21. This time not in ads but at a steep and meandering pass on a rugged mountain in Kangwon Province.

In a maze of rubble, one remarkable reunion

By James C. McKinley, Jr.

NAIROBI, Kenya — Perhaps more than anyone else who survived the bombing of the U.S. Embassy here, Joanne Grady-Huskey and her husband understand the fickleness of fate.

On Friday morning, Mrs. Grady-Huskey took her two children — Christopher, who is 8, and Caroline, who is 5 — to the embassy doctor for a routine checkup. She had planned to meet her husband, James Huskey, a political officer at the embassy, after the appointment.

The doctor's office is in the basement of the embassy, in downtown Nairobi, next to a parking garage. They were running late for their 10 a.m. appointment. Mrs. Grady-Huskey parked her gray Honda Accord in the lot behind the embassy, just two cars down from a covered pickup truck that FBI investigators now suspect was packed with explosives.

It was 10:33 a.m., she said.

Mrs. Grady-Huskey led her children down a parking ramp and through a door and hurried along a corridor to the doctor's office. A few seconds later, they heard a small explosion, a loud pop, like a grenade going off.

"One more minute later, the whole thing blew up and we were on the floor screaming," Mrs. Grady-Huskey said. "We found each other in the darkness."

Her husband was at a meeting in the ambassador's office on the fourth floor when the car bomb detonated with an explosive force that bomb experts now estimate equalled hundreds of

pounds of dynamite. The bomb flattened a seven-story building next to the embassy, gutted most of the mission and broke windows for 10 blocks.

When the explosion shattered the windows and shook the foundation, Huskey knew his family was supposed to be in the doctor's office in the basement. He ran through a ruined hallway and stumbled down a central stairwell. With each step, he encountered more destruction, more blood, more bodies, he said.

In the basement, Mrs. Grady-Huskey, wrapped in darkness and chaos, decided they had to get out.

She found her children by touch, and they began crawling back through the wrecked hallway. They crawled and scrambled over rubble and cement blocks and through thick black smoke. She held onto her little girl's hand, and Caroline held onto her brother.

The family encountered a critically injured woman and had to cross over her. They pressed on. There was no light, and they could find no opening.

"I was really concerned when I was crawling through with my kids that I didn't find a hole," she said. "Then I saw a light."

The mother and children made it through a doorway that had been half destroyed and walked up the parking-ramp into a world turned into an inferno. Where the parking lot had been there were only the carcasses of cars, smoke, fire, rubble and charred bodies. Mrs. Grady-Huskey and her children staggered around the building toward the entrance, but ran into a fence.

"The whole place was on fire," she said. Huskey had made his way down four flights of stairs and had staggered out the front of the embassy with the rest of the traumatised and bleeding staff. He ran around the south corner of the building. It looked like a wall of fire, he said. Then he saw his 5-year-old daughter behind a metal fence, covered with soot, screaming, "Daddy! Daddy!" Then he saw his son, then his wife.

"I tell you the most important experience of my life was rounding that corner and thinking my family was dead and seeing the fire in the background and my little girl," he recalled. "It was just an incredible feeling." With help from other men standing nearby, he pried apart the bars so they could get out.

Mrs. Grady-Huskey said: "We are alive. I am terribly sad that so many of our friends are dead."

On Monday, Huskey, who has been helping with the gruesome job of identifying embassy employees killed in the blast, went down to the mission's parking lot to examine the remains of his car. His daughter had left her favorite doll inside and he had a vague hope of recovering it.

The Honda had been reduced to a blackened shell. Rescue workers had picked it up and stacked it on top of some other wrecks.

"Thirty seconds earlier, they would have been evaporated," he said. "It's just luck."

"To have four members of one family in that embassy and to survive is just beyond imagination," he added.

— New York Times

King dismisses speculations over succession as 'nonsensical'

(Continued from page 1)

Following are major excerpts of the interview:

Q. After all these years as ruler, can you give us an evaluation about them — good or bad?

A. The past years were full of major events which have had their direct impact on the region — from the time when foreign powers imposed their hegemony on it and until today. Regrettably the instability in the Arab World that lasted for a long time cost us the loss of great opportunities for progress and cooperation and we missed chances for achieving integration. We have been true to our call for Arab unity in the full sense of the word. However, there are new trends through which we can attain our objective — by economic integration and cooperation which we hope will be transformed into facts on the ground in the near future. As for Jordan we believe that we have followed a course that is beneficial for the Arabs, and Jordan has set examples of sacrifice and of genuine support for the Arab brothers under all circumstances. Thank God Jordan is now on the right course of democracy. Democracy cannot be attained without an experiment until the time comes for all to rise to the required level. Jordan has acquired a prominent status in the world around us including the Arab World. Jordan is advocating a just and honourable peace and is committed to this call under all circumstances. We seek peace that can be acceptable to the coming generations. We seek peace despite all the hardships and difficulties that we continue to face and hope to see this objective realised because it is the hope of the majority of people in Jordan and elsewhere. The past years were truly difficult, and we learned from the experience. I am grateful to the Jordanian family which has supported me under all circumstances and I hope that Jordan will always set a good example for others in the region and the world at large.

Q. Despite the long distance from home you have been following up on your country's problems and affairs. This was demonstrated

clearly in your letter to Crown Prince Hassan. In your view how can Jordan deal with the negative situations?</

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Sales tax eats up 55.2% of the JD21.2m total sales posted by the International Tobacco and Cigarettes Company

THE STATE treasury collected JD11.7 million in sales tax from the International Tobacco and Cigarettes Company during the first half of this year. The amount represented 55.2 per cent of the sales which totalled JD21.2 million during the first six months of 1998, statistics provided by the company have shown.

According to company figures, net sales during the first half of 1998 amounted to JD9.5 million, 89 per cent higher than the JD5.3 million of net sales posted during the same period of 1997. But, as the cost of production also increased from JD3.9 million to more than JD7.0 million, the company's income before various allocations stood at JD1.6 million compared to JD777,900 of income recorded during the first six months of 1997.

The company said that total assets grew from JD19.7 million to JD26.2 million of which JD9.80 million were current assets. Investments in shares of other firms also rose from JD1.05 million to JD1.43 million at the end of June 1998.

Investments by non-Jordanians in the company went up from 5.786 per cent in 1997 to reach about 15.9 per cent of the equity. As such, the net shareholders' capital rose from JD12.85 million in JD15.4 million.

According to the 1997 annual report, the total sales of the International Tobacco and Cigarettes Company (ITCC) last year amounted to JD39.98 million. The share of the state treasury of this amount was

JD26.86 million. ITCC generated a JD3.2 million gross profit but the net income at the end of last year stood at JD1.74 million before allocations.

The board of directors recommended the distribution of dividends at a rate of seven per cent but the general assembly did not approve the distribution of JD700,000 in dividends and, instead, decided to beef up the retained earnings to JD2.6 million. At an extraordinary session, the general assembly decided to capitalise part of the retained earnings in order to raise the capital from JD10 million to JD12 million. Such an increase was covered by giving the shareholders free shares at a rate of 20 per cent and transferring JD612,068 to retained earnings.

Board Chairman Tawfiq Fakhoury told the general assembly that the addition of new production line and buildings would double the company's production capacity. He pointed out that there are "huge" orders to export to Iraq during 1998 and that such a volume is sufficient to have the factories operate for 24 hours a day despite the major additions to production lines.

Asked about the future plan for ITCC, Fakhoury said the company is now looking for a new market after the big successes achieved in the Iraqi markets and being able to compete with all Arab and international cigarettes (Al Aswaq).

B P and Amoco form oil giant in 'largest ever industrial merger'

LONDON (AFP) — Oil companies British Petroleum (BP) and Amoco on Tuesday unveiled plans for the "largest ever industrial merger" to create a top-flight international oil giant, worth \$110 billion.

The companies said that the new business, to be called BP Amoco PLC, would crash into the super-league of oil producers, behind the Anglo-Dutch Royal Dutch Shell giant and Exxon of the United States.

"Today's announcement changes the game. Before, BP was top of the second division," BP chief executive, Sir John Browne, who will head the London-based outfit, told journalists.

He added that through the merger "we both secure a leadership position at a time of critical change in the industry."

The companies said in a joint statement that the merger to create Britain's biggest company will increase pre-tax profits of the two partners by "at least" \$2 billion by the end of 2000. The companies will sack 6,000 workers, mostly in the United

States. Investors on the London Stock Exchange embraced the deal. BP stock closed 25 pence higher at 798.5 pence, dragging other oil issues upwards, as analysts braced for further possible mergers.

Browne labelled the deal "a superb alliance of equals," but BP will hold 60 per cent of the new company, leaving Amoco a 40 per cent stake.

He and Amoco Chairman Larry Fuller said that the deal had been drafted so that the companies could compete in the ever-tougher international petrochemicals market, forging "an energy business for the new millennium."

Browne and Fuller, who will become deputy chairmen, said in a statement: "We are uniting two excellent portfolios of assets and people to create a group that will have the financial resources, scale and global reach to compete effectively in the 21st century."

They added: "International competition in the industry is already fierce and will grow more acute as new players

emerge. In such a climate the best investment opportunities will go increasingly to companies that have the size and financial strength to take on those large-scale projects that offer a truly distinctive return."

The sector has been awash with predictions of consolidation as producers team up to tap fresh oil reserves, but Browne said this deal was its first manifestation in the real world.

"Many people have talked about restructuring of the industry. It has never happened perhaps until now," Browne said.

The deal will be financed by issuing new BP shares on the New York market, American Depositary Receipts, to exchange for Amoco stock.

Initial cost savings of \$2 billion are expected to come from staff cuts, improved procurement and rationalisation where operations are duplicated, the companies said. At present, they employ about 100,000 people.

The company will have combined reserves of about 14.8 billion barrels of oil and gas and daily production of about three

million barrels. It will be the biggest producer of oil and gas in the United States. Amoco is already the biggest gas producer in the United States and Canada.

The business will also "have key positions and enhanced opportunities for access in new acreage in regions expected to supply a growing share of global energy demand in the 21st century," from Algeria, to Venezuela, the companies said.

Amoco's Chicago headquarters will be the merged group's U.S. refining, marketing and transport centre and will become the group's chemicals' centre in due course.

Their chemicals' business will be "one of the world's largest," with revenues of about \$13 billion. In 1997, BP earned \$4.6 billion and Amoco \$2.7 billion.

The companies had combined revenues of \$108 billion.

Oil industry analysts were taken by surprise at the announcement, but said that the deal would secure multi-billion-dollar cost savings.

Israel seeks to revive bromine venture with Jordan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel is trying to revive plans for a bromine chemical joint venture with Jordan, a senior source at Israel's Industry and Trade Ministry said Tuesday.

The source said Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky would likely raise the issue when his Jordanian counterpart, Hani Al Mulki, visits Israel on Wednesday.

"During the visit we may discuss...the joint bromine plant, which is an open subject," the source said.

Jordan's Dead Sea Industries Company (JODICO), part of Jordan's Arab Potash Company, abruptly broke off three years of talks with Israel's Dead Sea Bromine last May and announced it had signed an accord with Albemarle Corp., a U.S. competitor to the Dead Sea Bromine Group.

JODICO said it had agreed to build a \$120 million bromine complex with Albemarle. Dead Sea and JODICO had been talking about developing an \$80 million bromine plant and an adjacent \$40 million chlorine plant.

At the time, Israel said the decision to go with Albemarle was tied to growing political tensions between Israel and Jordan since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office in June 1996.

"We don't understand why they decided (to go with the Americans). It seems like an economically illogical decision, and we hope we can still save the situation," an Israeli official told Reuters on Tuesday.

Officials from Dead Sea Bromine, a unit of Israel Chemicals Ltd., were unavailable for comment on Tuesday, but the Maariv daily quoted its managing director, Asher Grinbaum as saying he still hoped for a deal.

"We will do all we can in our power, through political and business contacts, to ensure that the Jordanian bromine plant will be set up with us," Grinbaum was quoted as saying.

The industry ministry source said Mulki's visit, part of regular bilateral talks on trade and investment relations, would discuss joint Israeli-Jordanian industrial parks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Even though you're lucky and probably very happy, there's more work coming in. There's some sort of activity going on at home. Are friends from far away coming to visit? It's causing complications because, while it's true you are powerful, you have a lot on your plate right now. Better get organized or you'll drop something out.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have certain ways you like to do things, and that's how it'll always be. Somebody else could come through today saying you need to change your procedures, and will push that idea pretty hard. You don't have to change if you don't want to, and you probably won't, either.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Today's a fabulous day for anything involving groups of people. Since you're naturally gregarious, you're probably already on several teams. Don't get carried away, however. It would be easy to spend more on these activities than you can afford. Figure out how to generate more money instead. Working together, you could all get rich.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Bountiful treasures could be yours again today. You can't just reach out and grab them, though. You'll have to navigate through the jungle where danger lurks around every corner. It probably won't be that bad. You just have to please a person who's not easy to please. If anyone can do it, you can.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go along on an excursion today to make sure everybody stays in line. You can be the chaperone or the designated driver. Don't think that will be necessary on a Wednesday? Who would get rowdy on a Wednesday? Well, somebody you know is going to give it a try.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Something big that you want is practically within your grasp. You still have to get past a few hurdles, but that's okay. They're nothing compared to what you've already done to get this far. A conversation with an authority figure in private will help you come up with an excellent idea.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You're a popular person, but sometimes that can cause problems. Looks like there are a few different invitations you'd like to accept tonight. Actually, one is more like an obligation. An older person wants you to do something and if you don't, there could be trouble. Perhaps you can schedule him or her for tomorrow instead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The action is fast again. There are also potential dangers lurking out there. The rewards are great, but getting to them won't be easy. That's okay. You like difficult assignments and can't stand to be bored. That's when you're most likely to get into trouble. Don't worry about that today; you'll be too busy.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You're being propelled towards success, which seems unusual because that's something you don't care about much. You're more interested in having fun with friends. You might prefer to stay home and get to know a loved one better. Even that would be preferable than trying to achieve success, and yet success is what you might get.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Looks like things are in a state of disarray around your house and you might have done it yourself. What are you doing...fixing things up, tearing things down or both? Well, you couldn't pick a better time. You may want to entertain company tomorrow, so you'd better whip things into shape as quickly as possible.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You're learning quickly now and that's good. You need every bit of information you can muster to win a tough game. The competition is bold and decisive, but you're more agile. Don't get cocky, though, or you could take a wrong turn and lose hard-earned points. Move quickly, but pay attention to where you're going.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You've been learning new skills, and you'll get to use them. Much to his/her surprise, you may help someone who thought he/she knew everything. You don't have to make a big deal of it and risk damaging a fragile ego. By the way, that's not your ego; yours is in fine shape.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Non-Jordanians boost investments at AFM

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Security Commission (JSC) Director General Michel Marto said Monday that non-Jordanian (Arab and foreign) investments at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) totalled JD28.5 million last July, an increase of JD22.1 million over the same period last year.

Marto added that the total value of selling transactions by non-Jordanians reached JD12.8 million compared to JD800,000 for the same month last year.

In a statement to the press, Marto said that net investments by non-Jordanians totalled JD15.7 million compared to JD5.6 million

for July 1997. He indicated that the total purchase transactions by non-Jordanians reached JD74.9 million since the beginning of 1998 until the end of July while the selling transactions totalled JD37.2 million.

Marto said the net investments of non-Jordanians

since the beginning of 1998 until the end of July was JD37.7 million compared to JD39.8 million for the same period of 1997.

He explained that Arab investments totalled JD22.5 million, or 30 per cent of the total purchase transactions by non-Jordanians. Non-Arab investments accounted

for the remaining 70 per cent, or JD52.4 million.

Meanwhile, the total value of selling transactions by Arab investors were JD21 million, constituting 56 per cent, and those of foreign investors registered JD17 million, forming 44 per cent of the total selling transactions by non-Jordanians.

Bourses tumble as Asian woes lift dollar, bonds

LONDON (R) — Investors fled global equities and headed for sanctuary in the dollar and bond markets on Tuesday as the yen's slide to a fresh eight-year low fed worries of a new round of Asian currency devaluations.

In Europe, London's blue chip index fell 2.8 per cent to its lowest level for seven months, Frankfurt fell 3.2 per cent and Paris shed 2.4 per cent. Portuguese shares fared even worse, down 3.6 per cent, while Spanish stocks tumbled 3.3.

The Dow shared the international gloom on worries over the outlook for U.S. corporate profits as the Asian crisis rumbles on, and was down 2.3 per cent by the London close.

"Events not only in Japan but throughout the emerging markets don't bode well for our economy and earnings growth," said Bill Meehan, chief market analyst at Cantor Fitzgerald in the United States.

Russian shares added to the pressure on other markets, tumbling 9.1

per cent as debt yields soared on low investor confidence in government plans to pull the country back from financial crisis.

A report Indonesia had defaulted on a debt repayment was another blow even though the country said it was merely rescheduling debt principal payments in line with an agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The Russian problems weighed on the market but bolstered the Swiss franc, which is also seen as a bolt hole in times of trouble. The Swiss franc hit a peak of 99.03 yen, its best level since September 1992.

Sterling was also benefitting, moving up to 240.70 yen, its highest in nearly six years.

But the dollar was the star performer, staying comfortably above 147 yen after eclipsing its June peak of 146.75 on a wave of yen selling late in Asian trading and early in Europe.

Growing market impatience with Japan's lack of action to kick-start its economy and reform the banking

system sent the U.S. currency to a peak above 147.60 yen, its highest since August 1990.

Fear of intervention was acting as a brake on the dollar but this was likely to be temporary.

"We might see some short-lived setbacks for the dollar but this will only be seen as opportunities to buy it back at lower levels because there really is no reason to buy yen," said David Coleman, chief economist at CIBC Wood Gundy Oppenheimer in London. "The break of 146.75 yen leaves open 150."

Bonds markets were also in winning form as investors opted out of volatile share markets, with French, German and Spanish bond futures all setting new contract highs while the benchmark 30-year Treasury was 3/4 point firmer.

But oil markets were miserable amid a continuing glut and fears the Asian problems will trim demand for oil. The benchmark September Brent future set a fresh 10-year low at \$11.70 per barrel.

Among active shares, in London

B.P. gained 2.9 per cent as news of a merger with Amoco sparked an oil sector rally. French oil stocks also gained, with Total rising 1.6 per cent and Elf Aquitaine adding 0.7 per cent.

But in other sectors sharp losses in Asian markets set a bearish tone after Tokyo's Nikkei fell 1.4 per cent, dented by weak banking shares and falls in other Asian stock markets.

Hong Kong shares fell 3.62 per cent to a five-year low as investors fretted about the chances of devaluation of the Hong Kong and Chinese currencies after the dollar breached 147 yen.

London stocks with Hong Kong exposure were under the cosh, and banking group HSBC fell 6.6 per cent.

"It's all doom and gloom again today," said one London dealer. "People who were talking about last week being a one-week consolidation are now talking about a class one bear market."

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Courier mum after loss at ATP Championship

MASON, Ohio (R) — After losing a frustrating 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-5) first-round encounter against 40th-ranked Tommy Haas of Germany Monday, former World No. 1 Jim Courier refused to appear at a post-match press conference and left the ATP Championship site.

The 69th-ranked Courier, an American who dominated the men's circuit for 58 weeks back in the early 1990's and won four Grand Slam trophies, will be fined \$1,000 for failing to talk to the media.

"I think we both had pretty much the same game," Haas said.

"He likes to hit his forehands and so do I. But maybe my backhand is a little better than his. I think I had more down-the-line winners with my backhand and maybe that was the key to the match."

Recent French Open champion Alex Corretja of Spain struggled in his first hardcourt match since last March in Key Biscayne but left the court a 6-3 6-7 (3-7) 7-6 (9-7) winner over wildcard recipient Alex O'Brien of the United States after a two-hour, 38 minute match.



Jim Courier

"It was important for me to concentrate and have a tough match," said Corretja, who has been on vacation the past three weeks. "Right

now, I feel fresh again. Today it was my first match back, so I was hungry to be on the court and hungry to play tennis."

The ninth-seeded Corretja was the highest seed in contention on the opening day of the ATP Championships. His fellow Spaniard, 13th-seeded Alberto Berasategui, was the only seeded player to fall, losing 7-5 6-2 to American Jeff Tarango.

Nine of the world's top 10 players are here at the ATP Championship event and the top eight seeds received first-round byes. Sixth-seeded Greg Rusedski of Britain withdrew with a left ankle sprain.

Second-seeded Marcelo Rios of Chile begins his quest for a first career title as the World No. 1 Tuesday night.

Top-seeded and second-ranked Pete Sampras won't see action until Wednesday, but 11th-seeded Andre Agassi was due to play Tuesday afternoon.

In all, Corretja had seven match points in the final set — three on O'Brien's serve in the 10th game and four in the tiebreaker.

The 12th-ranked Corretja, who has a 3-1 career edge over the 124th-ranked O'Brien, displayed steady nerves during the crucial third-set tiebreaker. With Corretja leading 4-2 in the

final-set tiebreaker, a brief rain shower stopped play for about 10 minutes. But Corretja, wearing his serious game face, never left the court while O'Brien headed for the locker room.

"It was the first time ever it happens to me that in the breaker of the third set — it starts to rain," Corretja said.

"I stayed on the court, concentrating, because it was like a small shower and I just prefer to stay. Maybe coming to the locker room might disturb my concentration."

O'Brien worked his way back into the tiebreaker, but at 7-7 a forehand winner down the line by Corretja, followed by a backhand return error by O'Brien sent Corretja into the second round.

There were only two service breaks in the one hour, 30 minute match between Courier and Haas. Courier broke the German's serve in the third game of the second set. Haas broke back in the sixth game.

In the final tiebreaker, Courier initially had a 3-1 lead, but Haas won six of the next eight points.



Rios tops ATP Tour rankings

ATP Tour rankings released on Monday:

1. Marcelo Rios (Chi)	3719 pts
2. Pete Sampras (USA)	3421
3. Patrick Rafter (Aus)	3306
4. Petr Korda (Cze)	3195
5. Carlos Moya (Spa)	2902
6. Greg Rusedski (Gbr)	2706
7. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe)	2650
8. Richard Krajicek (Ned)	2642
9. Andre Agassi (USA)	2423
10. Evgeni Kafelnikov (Rus)	2418
11. Tim Henman (Gbr)	2290
12. Alex Corretja (Spa)	2286
13. Karol Kucera (Slo)	2185
14. Albert Costa (Spa)	1921
15. Alberto Berasategui (Spa)	1907
16. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro)	1807
17. Thomas Enqvist (Swe)	1737
18. Cédric Pioline (Fra)	1712
19. Felix Mantilla (Spa)	1626
20. Jan Siemerink (Ned)	1438
21. Michael Chang (USA)	1432
22. Mark Philippoussis (Aus)	1406
23. Magnus Gustafsson (Swe)	1376
24. Thomas Muster (Aut)	1317
25. Nicolas Pietrangeli (Ger)	1312
26. Francisco Clavet (Spa)	1286
27. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra)	1281
28. Wayne Ferreira (Rsa)	1277
29. Fabrice Santoro (Fra)	1206
30. Richard Fromberg (Aus)	1195

Japan FA chief wants World Cup to match Olympics

TOKYO (R) — The President of Japan's Football Association said on Tuesday he wants Japan's World Cup Organising Committee to match the 4.4 billion yen (\$31.50 million) profit achieved at the Winter Olympics in Nagano last February.

"I hope we'll be able to achieve the same level of profit (as the Nagano Olympic Organising Committee) at the 2002 World Cup," Shunichiro Okano told the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo.

"We don't want to lose money," added Okano. "We also don't want to lose our reputation in organising a big international sporting festival. It (the ability to make a profit) will be a reflection of the success of the Japan Organising Committee."

Okano, who listed making a profit from the World Cup as one of his goals as JFA president, said he hopes shortly to discuss the financing of the competition with FIFA. At present Japan does not even know how much money it will get from TV rights.

Asked whether Japan could step in to host the World Cup on its own if

South Korea was forced to withdraw Okano said he had never considered the possibility of Korea pulling out.

"We have very good cooperation and collaboration so I have never imagined the Korean Football Association will withdraw their candidacy or their right to host the World Cup," he said.

South Korea's economic problems have raised the prospect that the country will reduce the number of stadiums used for the World Cup. But Okano said Japan stands ready to help.

"There has been some history between Japan and South Korea, but now we are in the same boat which is aiming at the same goal — to make World Cup 2002 a great success."

"If they (South Korea) need some assistance we are willing to help them so that both associations can enjoy a successful World Cup," said Okano.

He noted that FIFA requires a host country to have at least six stadiums for the World Cup and a maximum of 10.

"At the moment the Korean Organising Committee is planning to build 10 new stadiums but they can reduce the number of stadiums to six according to the regulations," said Okano.

"This is a matter for the Korean Football Association and the Korean Organising Committee to decide," he added.

Japan has already selected 10 stadiums to host games.

Okano said Japan has a very good understanding with South Korea and that the two countries worked well together.

He said Japan has 13 government ministries involved in organising the World Cup including the Ministry of Justice which has agreed that all travel restrictions between the two countries will be lifted for the duration of the tournament.

South Koreans without relatives in Japan require a visa to visit Japan which usually restricts their stay to 15 days.

Revolution underway at AC Milan

MILAN (AFP) — Captain Paolo Maldini says a revolution is underway at AC Milan under new coach Alberto Zaccheroni.

Zaccheroni has brought with him the training methods and attacking 3-4-3 formation which earned Udinese third place in the Serie A last season.

And now he is putting them into practice at a club which over the last two years has gone from the flagships to the Titanic of Italian football.

"I'm 30 years old and I have completely changed my way of training," said Maldini. "It's been a revolution compared to what I've been through with all the previous coaches I've had."

"Just take the physical preparation: we're doing very little long-distance running, but a lot of workouts in the gym."

Last Sunday, for example, I was on the machines for nearly three hours.

"It's a big change. Until last season, for example, we'd only do 20 minutes in the gym at most."

Maldini, who is also the national team skipper, is also witnessing the changes to the way Milan are preparing to play.

"We've had a lot of lessons on tactics," he said. "We're studying hard now in the hope that we will need fewer sessions once the season is underway, when time is limited."

"The concepts are fairly simple, but the training sessions are very long and we're spending a long time on the pitch. But it's not a problem."

Zaccheroni is not trying to get us to do things in a hurry, he prefers teaching us one idea at a time and making sure it is understood."

Going back to school is not a problem for the team, according to Maldini, who will find himself playing for the first time in a three-man defence.

"Everyone here is totally committed," he insisted.

Spirlea breezes in WTA opener

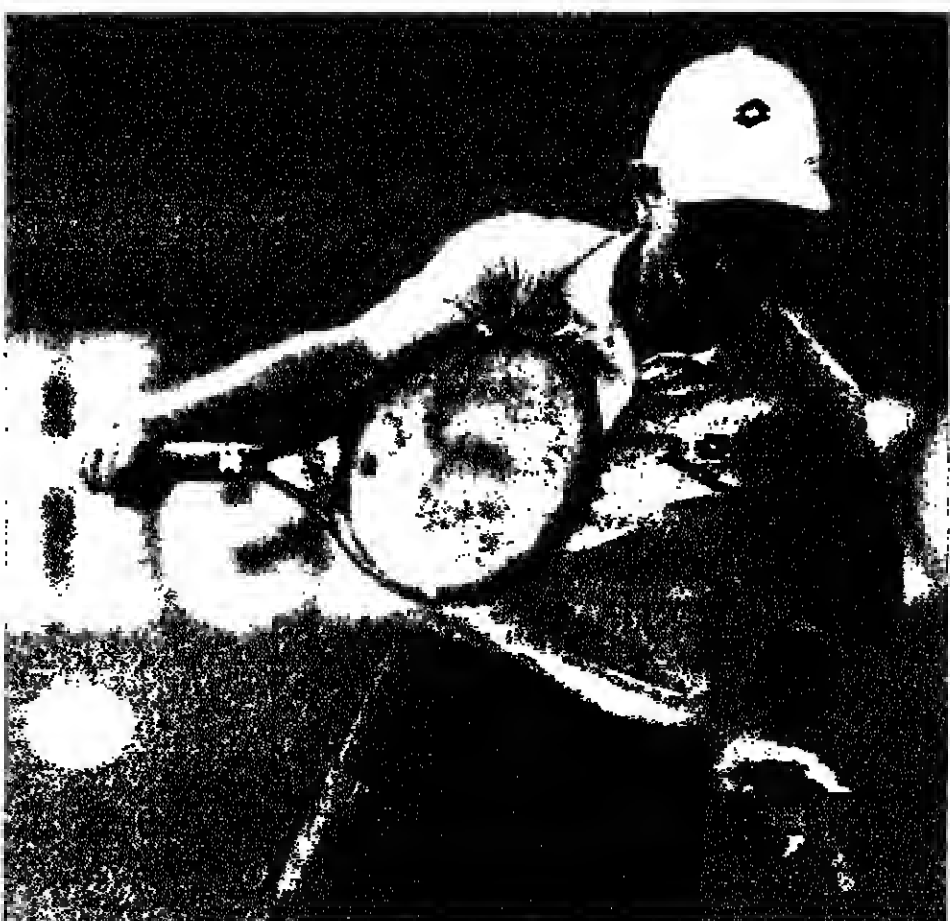
MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AFP) — Sixth seed Irina Spirlea of Romania breezed past China's Fang Li 6-0, 6-2, here Monday and into the second round of a \$450,000 WTA tournament.

Spirlea, the only seed in action, will next face either France's Mary Pierce or Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia in the second round.

Top seed and World No. 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland will be seeking her first title in three months while second-ranked American Lindsay Davenport will try to tighten the gap at this U.S. Open tuneup.

After winning 12 tournaments in 1997, Hingis has won just four this year and none since the Italian Open in May, her most recent final. She is in her 17th month atop the ratings since passing Steffi Graf.

Preparing to defend her U.S. Open title in three weeks, Hingis has seen her WTA lead plunge to under 500 points after Davenport has taken two triumphs in her native



Irina Spirlea

California. French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

of Spain will compete in her first summer hard-court event as the third

seed, followed by defending U.S. champion Monica Seles.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

El Guerrouj 1,500 metres record ratified

LONDON (R) — The world 1,500 metres record of three minutes 26.00 seconds set by Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj in Rome on July 14 has been officially ratified by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). El Guerrouj took more than a second off the previous mark set by Algerian Noureddine Morceli in Nice three years ago. In a statement released on Tuesday from its Monaco headquarters, the IAAF said it had also ratified the world women's hammer mark of 73.14 metres set by Romanian Mihaela Melinte in Poina Brasov on July 16.

Brazil names Wanderly Luxemburgo national team coach

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's Soccer Confederation will name Corinthians coach Wanderly Luxemburgo to lead the national team, O Globo television reported. Luxemburgo will replace Mario Zagallo who led Brazil to the finals in this year's World Cup. According to Globo the Confederation was due to make it official on Tuesday noon at their headquarters in Rio. The first players for the new national team should be named some time in September for the three or four exhibition matches remaining this year. Luxemburgo will not leave Corinthians before the end of the national championships.

Italy's Scoglio likely to be Tunisia's next coach

TUNIS (R) — Italy's Francesco Scoglio was poised to replace Henryk Kasprczak as Tunisia's national coach, a soccer federation official said on Tuesday. "We have almost reached an agreement in principle with Scoglio who is the most likely among all other candidates," the Tunisian Football Federation official told Reuters. Scoglio, 57, has coached a number of Serie A sides including Bologna, Udinese, Genoa and Torino. He has not coached outside Italy. Tunisia sacked Poles Kasprczak after the national team failed to reach the second round at this year's World Cup following defeats to England and Colombia.

Blazevic to remain Croatian coach for another 4 years

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — Miroslav Blazevic, who guided Croatia to a bronze medal in its maiden World Cup last month, will remain the national team coach for another four years. "Everything is settled, we're entering into a new cycle," Blazevic told the daily Sportske Novosti on Tuesday. Blazevic, 63, took the helm of the national squad in 1993, leading the fledgling nation to the quarterfinals of the European Championships in 1996. A keen tactician and master motivator, Blazevic has registered memorable victories over soccer giants like Germany, Italy, Holland and Spain during his tenure. Nonetheless, he was almost dumped as a headcoach in the lead-up to the World Cup in France as the Croats squeezed into the finals through a backdoor playoff series following a lackluster performance in its qualification group with Slovenia, Bosnia and Greece. "I've achieved a lot, but I know that if we lose against Yugoslavia that our bronze will be dragged through mud," Blazevic said.

Belle helps

CHICAGO (R) — Albert Belle put his name alongside the Hall of Fame Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig and won the Chicago White Sox's MVP award as he led the team to a 5-3 win over the Cleveland Indians.

Belle became just the 11th player in major-league history to collect at least 30 home runs and 100 runs batted in in seven straight seasons when he hit a run-scoring double in the fourth

inning in a 5-3 win over the Indians. "But he's also got the hardest workers I

know prepared every day to give a thrill to watch them all year long."

Chicago manager Jerry Manuel, who includes Belle in his lineup, said he was one of the premier players in the game and he's come a lot to stand out in the change even when

he's not. "Cleveland is a tough team to beat. But he's also got the hardest workers I know prepared every

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Belle helps White Sox rally past A's

CHICAGO (R) — Albert Belle put his name alongside those of Hall of Famers Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Jimmie Foxx with an RBI double as the Chicago White Sox rallied to defeat the Oakland Athletics 5-3 on Monday.

Belle became just the fourth player in major-league history to collect at least 30 home runs and 100 runs batted in for seven straight seasons when he hit a run-scoring double in the fourth inning.

"Albert is simply an amazing hitter," teammate Robin Ventura said. "But he's also one of the hardest workers I know."

He comes prepared every day.

"It's quite a thrill to watch Albert's focus all year long," said Chicago manager Jerry Manuel of his moody slugger's season, which includes a domestic battery charge. "He's one of the premier players in the game and he's overcome a lot to stand out and take charge even when we struggle."

The former Cleveland Indian averaged 39 homers and 122 RBI in his previous six seasons. He has 35 home runs and 100 RBI in 117 games this year.

Belle's double cut Oakland's lead to 3-2 and Ventura's two-run homer with two-out in the sixth inning off Kenny Rogers (11-5) gave Chicago the lead.

"I felt better at the plate the last couple of days," said Ventura, who was 4-for-28 (.154) in his previous eight games.

"I was able to connect on Kenny's fastball, which is nice because he's one of the better ones out there."

Jim Parque (3-4) combined with fellow rookie Bob Howry and Bill Simas on a four-hitter. Parque gave up three runs and four hits while walking three and striking out five over six innings for his first win in eight starts.

"I made some adjustments before my start tonight," Parque said. "I shortened my stride and that made a difference. I didn't have to use a lot of energy tonight. I've been working on that and I've been concentrating hard-



Philadelphia Phillies Curt Schilling pitches to Arizona Diamondbacks center fielder Devon White during the second inning. Schilling shutout the Diamondbacks with a 3-0 complete game victory (Reuters photo)

National League Results

Milwaukee	4	Cincinnati	3
Montreal	8	Arizona	2
St Louis	2	Chicago Cubs	1
Houston	11	Philadelphia	2
Colorado	1	NY Mets	4
San Diego	6	Florida	5
Pittsburgh	2	Los Angeles	1
Atlanta	7	San Francisco	5

er on my pitches."

Howry tossed two perfect innings and Simas recorded his 13th save in 17 tries by pitching a 1-2-3 ninth.

In New York, the Yankees continued to overwhelm opponents as Hideki Irabu allowed two hits over seven scoreless innings and Scott Brosius and Bernie Williams homered in a 7-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

The Yankees improved the major leagues' best home record to 43-8. They have won five straight overall for the seventh time this season, outscoring opponents 48-12 during the streak.

"I'm very amazed at what's going on," said manager Joe Torre. "I'm just proud of the way the ballclub goes out there and wants to win every day instead of laying down and coasting."

The Yankees' 17 1/2-game lead in the American League East is their largest since they topped the A.L. by 18 games during the 1991 season.

Irabu (11-5) struck out four and walked two in his third straight solid outing. Since losing to the White Sox on July 25, the Japanese right-hander has allowed only six runs and 10 hits over 22 innings for a 2.45 ERA.

Brosius reached Frank Rodriguez (1-2) for a two-run shot in the fourth to extend the Yankees' lead to 4-0, and Williams added a solo shot in the seventh for a seven-run advantage.

Matt Lawton hit a three-run homer in the eighth for Minnesota, which has dropped eight of its last nine games.

At Tampa Bay, Juan Guzman combined with three relievers on a three-hitter and Cal Ripken made a stellar defensive play as the surging Baltimore Orioles edged the Devil Rays 2-1.

Guzman (8-12), making his second start since he was acquired from Toronto just prior to the July 31 trade deadline, gave up one run and three hits over 5 2/3 innings, walking two and striking out two.

The right-hander is 4-0 with a microscopic 0.67 ERA in his last four starts, yielding just two earned runs and 17 hits in 27 innings.

Alan Mills pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings and Jesse Orosco tossed the eighth before Armando Benitez set down the side in order in the ninth for his 16th save in 17 chances.

In the eighth inning, Ripken prevented the tying run from scoring by diving to his right to snag a sharp grounder from Fred McGriff, then throwing McGriff out from his knees to end the inning.

In Detroit, Omar Olivares allowed two runs over seven innings for his first win in 10 starts and Gary DiSarcina had two hits and two RBI as the Anaheim Angels handed the Tigers their seventh straight loss, 6-2.

Olivares (6-8), a former Tiger, scattered six hits with four walks and six strikeouts to snap a personal six-game losing streak and notch his first win since June 17.

Detroit's Frank Castillo (3-8) surrendered six runs and 11 hits over seven innings, falling to 1-7 in his last 12 starts.

Arab Junior Swimming Championships

Jordan adds two more medals as Egypt dominates races

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan won two more medals Tuesday on the second day of the fifth Arab Junior Swimming Championships at Al Hussein Youth City.

The Kingdom's girls team won a silver medal after securing second place in the 4x100 freestyle relay in the Under-14 category while their Under-16 teammates won a bronze in the 4x100 freestyle relay.

The Egyptian team, which came in first, showed a better performance although the Jordanians tried their utmost to overcome their opponents.

The Jordanian Under-14 team included: Farah Younes, Dima Ghneim, Sandi Zuraik and Rasha Ghosheh. The Under-16 team includes Tala Khouri, Hana Majaj, Bassant Zeitoun and Rania Ghosheh.

Coach Ali Nawwas congratulated the team and hoped for better performances in the coming two days.

"I am so proud with our team's achievements as we have so far clinched one silver and one bronze," Nawwas told the Jordan Times.

Jordan's Sadeq Damrah had captured the first bronze medal after securing third place in the 100m breaststroke on the opening day of the event in which 12 countries are taking part in swimming, water polo and diving competitions.

"We are doing our best in this competition and we still need more experience to take on the champions," he added.

Throughout Tuesday's events, the Egyptian team clinched four more gold medals. Egypt's Ahmed Khalil came in first in 50m freestyle clocking 24.55. Jordan's Saeed Al Nasser came seventh with 28.34.

Egypt's Mahmoud Alwani clocked 24.52 in 50m freestyle and took the gold medal. Jordan did not participate in this event.

In the girls' 200m backstroke Egypt's Amineh Abed Al Hafez took the first place with 2:33.99, while Jordan's Bassant Zaitoun was disqualified because of a technical error.

Zaitoun said it was a mistake for not paying much attention during the race.

Jordan's only hope Omar Dallal did not look at his best in today's event as he came in the fourth place in 200m clocking 4:57.56.

Algeria took the gold medal in 50m freestyle clocking 26.98, while Jordan's George Khouri came seventh with 30.59.

Egypt's Hani Al Tair who took the gold in 200m freestyle expressed satisfaction that "organisation is good but they should have brought electronic timing machines and not do it manually," he told the Jordan Times.

Tunisia secured a gold medal with Salma Al Yaji clocking 2:32.35 in the 200m backstroke.

Morocco's Faten Lohshi took first place in 100m freestyle clocking 1:17.72 while Jordan's Dana Abioqah came seventh clocking 2:32.65.

The August 10-16 event groups swimmers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Algeria, Oman, Iraq, Syria, Qatar, Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco in addition to Jordan.

Held under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Rania, the championship is the first of many in preparation for the upcoming Pan-Arab Games which will be held in Amman 1999.



Jordanian Olympic Committee (JOC) Secretary General hands a gold medal to Algeria's 50m freestyle champion Raouf Ben Obeid (Photo by Abdullah Ayoub)

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Monaco president rules out Henry transfer to Arsenal

PARIS (AP) — Striker Thierry Henry, a member of France's World Cup winning squad, will not be granted his wish to move to English champion Arsenal, the president of French club Monaco said.

Henry, who has four years left on his contract with Monaco, said over the weekend that he had left several messages on the Monaco president's answering machine, pleading for talks.

But the club president, Jean-Louis Campora, said in an interview published Tuesday by the magazine France Football that he recently met with Arsenal vice-president David Dein in London and told him Henry's transfer was out of the question.

"Arsenal is and always has been interested (in Henry)," Campora was quoted as saying. "Met Dein in London and he asked me if Henry was free and I said no. That's that."

Campora pointed the finger at Henry's two agents, saying they were purposely trying to unsettle the player, and that they had been talking to Arsenal without Monaco's consent.

"I'm convinced that this unprincipled attempt at intimidation is the work of the agents," Campora said.

He added that he planned to file an official complaint about the agents' behavior with FIFA, soccer's world governing body.

Campora said he would meet with Henry in the next two weeks and offer him an extended contract, with a high-

er salary.

Henry, a close friend of Arsenal's French striker Nicolas Anelka, says he wants to move to England for professional reasons, not financial ones. He is also being targeted by top Spanish clubs.

Henry, 21, said his agents had done nothing wrong.

"I'm being depicted as a baby, as if I can't make a decision on my own at my age," he told France Football. "I just want to leave, that's all."

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger has said he wants to sign a striker to boost his squad for the coming season, after failing to agree terms with Dutch international Patrick Kluivert.

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Record or cash could be Gebrselassie's tricky choice

ZURICH (R) — Haile Gebrselassie may be torn between a world record and a \$1 million jackpot at the richest meeting in athletics on Wednesday.

Faced with some of the world's leading distance runners in Kenyan Paul Tergat, Morocco's Khalid Boularoui and Germany's Dieter Baumann, the Ethiopian holder of the 5,000 and 10,000 world marks knows record bids can be risky.

Gebrselassie, who smashed the 5,000 mark in a pulsating night of action in Zurich last year, cannot afford to take too many chances chasing the clock and may have to concentrate on just beating his rivals.

That is because he is one of five athletes still in the hunt for the \$1 million prize to be shared between anyone who wins all seven rounds of their event in the Golden League series.

American 400 metres hurdler Bryan Brunson, middle-distance runner Hicham El Guerrouj, sprinter Marion Jones and women's 400 specialist Charity Opara are the others in contention for the bonus in this fourth and most glamorous leg.

Last year, Zurich witnessed an historic few hours of athletics with world records from Kenya's Wilson Boit Kipketer in the steeplechase, a brilliant 800 record from Denmark's Wilson Kipketer and Gebrselassie's 5,000 best of 12:41.86.

Gebrselassie, who improved his record to 12:39.36 in Helsinki in June, was pushed all the way in one of the greatest 5,000 races of all time by Kenyan world champion Daniel Komen, Tergat, Boularoui and Baumann.

Komen, who has decided to run shorter distances this year to sharpen his speed, will not be clashing with Gebrselassie this time. He has opted for the 1,500 where he will meet Moroccan El Guerrouj and Spain's former Olympic champion Fermín Cacho.

Few believe the distance runners can repeat last year's trio of records but the 5,000, the last evening of the meeting, is expected to be one of the highlights.

The men's 100 metres, so often a high-class affair in Zurich in the past, has been greatly weakened by the decision by American world champion Maurice Greene and Trinidad's Ato Boldon, 200 world champion, to miss the meeting after failing to agree terms with the promoter.

Olympic champion Donovan Bailey and fellow Canadian Bruny Surin are in the field, with Namibia's Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredericks and Britain's world junior champion Christian Malcolm. World champion Jones, who looked sharp in Monaco at the weekend with a 100 metres victory in 10.72 seconds, believes she can run 10.70 in Zurich because the track is so fast.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TARIK HUSSEIN

AS ELOQUENT AS SPEECH

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH	EAST
♠ 9	♠ 2
♥ A K Q	♥ 5
♦ 9 7 4 3	♦ A 5 3
♣ 10 4	♣ 2
♠ 9 7 5 3	♠ 5 4
♥ Q 6 5 2	♥ A 10
♦ 7 10	♦ K Q 9 8 6 4 2
SOUTH	EAST
♠ A K Q 8 7 6 5	♠ 2
♥ 10 9	♥ 5 4
♦ K J 8	♦ A 10
♣ 7	♣ K Q 9 8 6 4 2

The bidding:
EAST: 1♠, 2♠, 3♠, 4♠, 5♠, 6♠, 7♠, 8♠, 9♠, 10♠, 11♠, 12♠, 13♠, 14♠, 15♠, 16♠, 17♠, 18♠, 19♠, 20♠, 21♠, 22♠, 23♠, 24♠, 25♠, 26♠, 27♠, 28♠, 29♠, 30♠, 31♠, 32♠, 33♠, 34♠, 35♠, 36♠, 37♠, 38♠, 39♠, 40♠, 41♠, 42♠, 43♠, 44♠, 45♠, 46♠, 47♠, 48♠, 49♠, 50♠, 51♠, 52♠, 53♠, 54♠, 55♠, 56♠, 57♠, 58♠, 59♠, 60♠, 61♠, 62♠, 63♠, 64♠, 65♠, 66♠, 67♠, 68♠, 69♠, 70♠, 71♠, 72♠, 73♠, 74♠, 75♠, 76♠, 77♠, 78♠, 79♠, 80♠, 81♠, 82♠, 83♠, 84♠, 85♠, 86♠, 87♠, 88♠, 89♠, 90♠, 91♠, 92♠, 93♠, 94♠, 95♠, 96♠, 97♠, 98♠, 99♠, 100♠.

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

whenever forced to act, or passed initially, planning to come into the auction later. The double of five clubs served no purpose but, combined with West's subsequent silence, had fateful consequences in the play.

Against six spades West led the jack of clubs, a normal salvo that would have been made even had East not doubled five clubs. Declarer won in dummy and had only one chance, to squeeze West in the red suits. It was too much to hope that East would hold both the ace and queen of diamonds as well as the king and queen of clubs and still have started with a preempt.

Even so, declarer would probably have gone wrong by leading a diamond to the jack and West been active in the auction. In view of East's double of five clubs, West would surely have doubled five diamonds had that defender held the ace. So at trick two declarer led a diamond and, when East followed low, rose with the king.

When that held, declarer drew trumps in two rounds, then exited with a diamond to East's ace. Declarer won the heart return with the king, ruffed a club to hand, then ran the rest of the trumps. Forced to hold the queen of diamonds to guard against declarer's jack, West had to come down to just one heart, and dummy's A 6 of hearts scored the last two tricks.

"Loose lips sink ships" was a familiar slogan during World War II. However, failure to speak at the appropriate time can be as revealing as this deal illustrates.

Opening with a preemptive bid when holding a side ace will often cause partner to go wrong in a competitive situation, so we would either have opened one club with the East hand and then rebid clubs

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U.N. rejects Iraqi charges on medical contracts

UNITED NATIONS (AFP)

The United Nations on Monday rejected Iraqi assertions that the United States and Britain were preventing the approval of much-needed medical supplies for Iraq.

Iraqi Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak slammed U.S. and British representatives on the U.N. Sanctions Committee on Monday for using "stupid pretexts" to block medical supply contracts.

"The American and British representatives always block

the contracts presented to the committee by evoking stupid and insignificant pretexts," the minister said in an interview with the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra.

The Sanctions Committee examines all contracts for supplies bought under the oil-for-food programme which allows sanctions-hit Iraq to sell a limited amount of oil in return for basic foodstuffs and medical supplies.

"The hindrances caused by the American and British representatives have meant that

only 0.5 per cent of the medicines ordered during the third phase of the oil-for-food programme (January-June 1998) have been delivered to Iraq," the minister said.

However, U.N. spokesman John Mills told AFP that the Sanctions Committee had approved \$179 million worth of medical supplies in the third phase of the programme.

A total \$1.7 million worth had been put on hold, he said, noting that "this means less than one per cent of the total approved."

Thyssen says Iraq pump sales are 'old matter'

ESSEN (R) — German industrial giant Thyssen said on Tuesday information recently revealed by Iraq about illegal equipment sales to the country almost 10 years ago concerned a well known case that had already been investigated.

A letter Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz sent recently to the U.N. Security Council apparently inadvertently mentioned Thyssen as the supplier of turbo pumps that could be used in rocket motors.

The shipment of the pumps in 1990 was halted after German officials revoked export permits and later led to suspended sentences against three company officials. "It's really an old matter," said

Thyssen spokesman Alfred Wewers.

The case resurfaced when Aziz wrote that Iraq would no longer cooperate with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

In an appendix to his letter, Aziz listed 29 questions he said were asked by a member of the U.N. team "regarding the receiving of the foreign turbo-pump for the test run on September 1989."

One question asked whether the pumps had been tested in Germany — revealing the country of origin, something Iraq and U.N. arms inspectors usually do not disclose. Another asked: "Were the

packings original Thyssen packings?" — disclosing, presumably inadvertently, that the firm apparently sent the pump.

Wewers said the Thyssen unit that made the pumps thought they would be used in Iraq's oil industry. "We have been in that business for 30 years," he said.

In settling the 1993 court case, one of the Thyssen executives admitted he went ahead with the sale even after it became clear the pumps, built to Iraqi specifications, were meant for military use. The pumps can be used to increase the pressure of rocket propellants as they enter the combustion chamber.



LARGEST MIDEAST SHOE MANUFACTURING CENTRE: A Palestinian girl poses with an oversized shoe at the opening of the Hebron Shoe Festival on Tuesday. Better known as a hotbed of Palestinian opposition to Israeli settlement, the West Bank town of Hebron is also, according to the promotional literature, the largest shoe manufacturing centre in the Middle East. Ironically the town exports most of its products to Israel (AFP photo)

Calling on Mandela to help rescue peace process Arafat offers to help track down American embassies' bombers

CAPE TOWN (AFP) —

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Tuesday condemned the twin explosions at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last week and said he would help track down the bombers.

On the first day of a three-day state visit to South Africa, Arafat also said he foresaw a role for President Nelson Mandela in the Middle East peace process and called on South Africa to help rescue it.

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, meanwhile, used the occasion of Arafat's visit to launch a broadside at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accusing him of "buying time" to pursue his own agenda rather than working towards peace in the Middle East.

Speaking to reporters after holding talks here with Mandela, Arafat condemned as "terrorism" the bombings in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam, which killed more than 200 people and injured more than 5,000.

"We condemned it completely and we are against all this completely," he said. "We are looking for a just peace everywhere."

Asked who he believed was responsible, Arafat said: "Until now we don't know, but we are trying to coordinate with our friends to find out who is behind these terrorist attacks."

Mbeki, speaking after holding private talks with Arafat, said he found it "surprising" that Netanyahu had not embraced a U.S. proposal — accepted by Arafat's Palestinian Authority — aimed at enhancing the peace process.

"It seems to us that all that Netanyahu is doing is trying to buy time to implement his programmes, rather than working for peace for the whole Middle East region," Mbeki said.

Arafat was reticent to reveal the content of his discussions with Mandela, but told the SABA news agency the Middle East peace process had been on the agenda, in particular a possible role for Mandela.

"We spoke frankly about that," he said, but declined to say what he believed that role to be. Speaking after meeting Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the home affairs minister, Arafat said Palestine needed South Africa's help "so that we can save this peace process."

Mandela has in the past offered to share his experience of the South African peace process with Middle East negotiators but has rejected a more direct role, preferring to back a U.S. initiative and guidelines for peace set out in the Oslo accord.

The South African leader has on three occasions



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and South African President Nelson Mandela pause for a snapshot while strolling through the gardens of Tuynhuis in Cape Town, Tuesday (AFP photo)

planned trips to Israel and Palestine but has each time called off the visit for one reason or another.

In recent months, South Africa has sharply criticised Israel's settlement activities, which brought the Israeli-Palestinian peace process to a halt 17 months ago, and has called on Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestinian land.

Arafat, wearing military khakis and his trademark checked kaffiyeh, was welcomed to Mandela's Tuynhuis office here early Tuesday with a 21-gun salute, a naval guard of honour and the conferring of South Africa's highest decoration, the Order of Good Hope.

The decoration was awarded, according to the citation, for his contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle.

Arafat in turn honoured his South African counterpart with the Palestinian Authority's highest award, the Star of Holy Jerusalem.

Mandela, who towered above his visitor, had to bend low so Arafat could place the award around his neck. During the proceedings, a bilateral declaration of intent on health and education was signed by South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo and the chief negotiator in the Palestine-Israeli peace talks, Sach Erekat.

Arafat was to be feted by Mandela at a banquet Tuesday night.

Arafat victorious over legislators, loses on credibility among his people

By Mona Eltahawy
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — President Yasser Arafat's cabinet reshuffle was a victory over disgruntled legislators at the cost of credibility among Palestinians increasingly disenchanted with the way their president governs, analysts said.

Arafat's cabinet changes, approved on Sunday by the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) dominated by his Fatah faction, were less an effort to put his political house in order after corruption charges and more a show of muscle-flexing, they said.

The president shuffled portfolios, but kept all ministers — including those accused in an auditor's report and a parliamentary probe of corruption — in the cabinet.

"Arafat comes out as winner in the competition with the council," said Palestinian analyst Khalil Shikaki.

"The PLC vote to accept his cabinet strengthened him visibly. It didn't help him in terms of credibility among Palestinians or in terms of the confidence people may have in him to take necessary mea-

sures to correct the situation with regard to corruption," he added.

Lawmakers had been shouting for change since the 1997 auditor's report and a scathing parliamentary inquiry that alleged that corruption, mismanagement and waste were rampant in Arafat's Palestinian National Authority.

After reneging on several promises to reform, it appeared last week as if Arafat had finally settled on a new look for the government, which rules in most of Gaza and parts of the West Bank under interim peace deals with Israel.

But as he read out his "new" cabinet list, it quickly became apparent there was little that had changed other than its size.

Lawmakers voted by 55-28 to accept the new cabinet. The margin was assured, analysts said, because 66 of the 88 PLC members belong to Fatah and 24 of the new ministers are lawmakers.

"The PLC is going to be much weaker, more co-opted by the president," Palestinian analyst and former peace negotiator Ghassan Al Khatib told Reuters.

"The council will have great difficulty opposing and criticising... In the public eye, the council failed to hold the cabinet accountable because Arafat bought some outspoken members," he said.

The reshuffle may have gained Arafat a stronger presence in the PLC but it cost him two ministers who resigned in disgust and may whittle away public support.

Hanan Ashrawi, probably the most internationally recognised Palestinian after Arafat, and Abdul Jawad Saleh quit the cabinet just a day after the president announced the shape of the reshuffle.

Ashrawi and Saleh cited insufficient reform, dealing a further public relations blow to Arafat at a time when his peace moves with Israel are frozen and opinion polls show more Palestinians think his government is inefficient.

A poll released on the same day lawmakers voted to accept the new cabinet found that 56.8 per cent of Palestinians believed the reshuffle would not improve the cabinet's performance.

The Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre poll of 1,204 Palestinians found that

71.3 per cent of those surveyed believed that corruption in Arafat's government would either increase or remain the same after the shake-up.

The president's critics had urged a new look government that would not only root out corruption but also send Israel a message that Palestinian politics were strong enough to herald in an independent state next year.

Arafat has vowed to declare a state next May, the deadline under Oslo interim peace accords for finding a permanent settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.

"We need a deeper, more comprehensive and more serious view. We still need a change in the cabinet, not just an adjustment whatever its size and this need will increase in urgency as we get closer to May 4, 1999," Talal Okal said in Al Ayyam daily.

Analyst Shikaki said: "We need a strong council if we are ever to be taken seriously by Israel. This was the wrong message. It said that Arafat is the only one who matters and that he can completely disregard the council and always find a way to undermine its collective will."



Court defends teacher's nudity

STOCKHOLM (R) — A

Swedish teacher who stripped naked to give her class self-confidence has won her legal battle for compensation for unfair dismissal. The teacher was sacked a year ago for shedding her clothes in front of a class of unemployed women at Kristinehamn's adult education college, the Swedish news agency TT reported. She told Karlstad court in central Sweden that she had decided to teach her class naked to help strengthen her pupils' self-confidence, the agency said. The court ordered her former employer, Varmland County Council, to pay \$18,500 in damages.

Pope enters world of Internet

VATICAN CITY (R) —

Pope John Paul will take his message to millions of cyberspace Catholics from next week when Internet users around the globe will hear his teachings live via their computers, the Vatican said. The web site is <http://www.vatican.va>. The new service will take off on August 15, which Catholics celebrate as the Feast of the Assumption. The world's one billion Roman Catholics will be able to hear and see the pontiff recite his Angelus prayer on Sundays, conduct his general audience on Wednesdays and follow other ceremonies in the Vatican as well as the Pope's travels abroad.

Queen honours British poet Ted Hughes

LONDON (R) — Britain's

poet laureate Ted Hughes has been appointed a member of the Order of Merit, a special mark of honour awarded by Queen Elizabeth to individuals of exceptional distinction, British newspapers reported. The order, founded in 1902 by Edward VII, has just 24 members, including Baroness Margaret Thatcher, Lucian Freud and Nelson Mandela. It is a personal gift of the queen and can be awarded only when a former recipient dies.

'Free Willy' whale, Keiko, on his way to freedom

SEATTLE (R) — Keiko,

celebrated killer whale star in the movie "Free Willy," will take a major step towards returning to the open ocean next month when he is flown from Oregon to a new home in Iceland, officials said. Pending U.S. Air Force approval, Keiko will take off on September 9 from Newport, Oregon, aboard a C-17 Globemaster III aeroplane bound for the Westman Islands in Iceland, where a specially built floating pen is waiting for him, the officials of the Free Willy Keiko Foundation said.

Ex-White House intern convicted of stalking George Stephanopoulos

NEW YORK (AFP) —

George Stephanopoulos, a one-time adviser to President Bill Clinton, has his own problems with a former White House intern, according to court proceedings. Tanager Burkhardt, 30, was found guilty Friday of harassing Stephanopoulos and ordered to cease having contact with him. Burkhardt had been accused of systematically stalking Stephanopoulos along New York streets, outside his home or while on private appointments and on trips. She also sent him letters twice weekly, according to court documents.



SURAYA COOLS OFF: Suraya, a Bengal tiger, receives a midday shower from her Kuwaiti owner Uman Mohammad, Tuesday in Kuwait City. Temperatures reached a high of over 45 degrees Celsius in Kuwait and the rest of the region (AFP photo)

Qatari emir visits

His Majesty the Emir of Qatar received at his residence in Doha, the Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani on his good health. The two leaders discussed the relations and issues of cooperation between the two countries. The Emir of Qatar also discussed the health of the King of Jordan. The King received the Emir of Qatar at his residence in Amman. The Emir of Qatar also discussed the health of the King of Jordan. The King received the Emir of Qatar at his residence in Amman. The Emir of Qatar also discussed the health of the King of Jordan. The King received the Emir of Qatar at his residence in Amman.

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